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FIJI ISLANDS.

COPY OF A LETTER

ADDRESSED TO

COMMODORE GOODENOUGH, R.N.,

AND

E. L. LAYARD, ESQ.,

HER MAJESTY'S CONSUL IN FIJI,

INSTRUCTING THEM TO REPORT UPON VARIOUS QUESTIONS CONNECTED WITH THE FIJI ISLANDS:

WITH ENCLOSURES.

MUSEUM OF SALEM

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
April, 1874.

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WITH ENCLOSURES.

SIR, Downing Street, August 15, 1873.

HER Majesty's Government desire to take advantage of the opportunity afforded by your proceeding to assume the appointment of Consul for the Fiji and Tonga Islands, to request you, in conjunction with Commodore Goodenough, who has been appointed to the Chief Naval Command on the Australian Station, to inquire and to report to them on certain matters connected with the Fiji Islands, and I now proceed to explain to you the general course which this inquiry should take, and to direct your attention to those points which principally require investigation.

A similar instruction has been addressed to Commodore Goodenough, and I have to request that you will in this matter act in full concert and combination with him.

I transmit to you herewith copies of various papers which have been laid before Parliament on the subject of the Fiji Islands, together with two Memoranda recently furnished by Mr. March, Her Majesty's late Consul for those Islands. As you will find in these papers full details of the relations of Her Majesty's Government with the Fiji Islands up to the present time, it is unnecessary that I should do more than briefly notice what has occurred since Colonel Smythe made his Report.

Inclosures:
1. Colonel Smythe's Report;
2. House of Commons, 435 of 1872
3. House of Commons, 509 of 1871
4. House of Commons, 124 of 1873
5. May 7, 1873. Affairs in Fiji.
6. May 14, 1873. Claim of United States against King Thakobau.

After considering that Report, Her Majesty's Government communicated (in 1862) to the King and Chiefs the determination of Her Majesty to decline the Sovereignty of Fiji, and for some years after that date they were not called upon to consider any questions connected with the Government of the Islands. In 1868, the number of persons of European origin settled in Fiji having by that time considerably increased, Mr. Thurston, through the Earl of Belmore, then Governor of New South Wales, called attention to the proceedings of a Company formed in Melbourne, who had obtained from the Chief of Bau (Thakobau) a charter by which it was proposed to secure to the Company 200,000 acres of land belonging to a tribe stated to be independent of him. Mr. Thurston pointed to this and to other proceedings as showing the desirability of establishing British or other civilized authority in the Islands. By the terms of the charter the Company undertook to make provision for the settlement of a claim of about 10,000*l.* preferred by the United States against King Thakobau.

In a letter dated the 31st of December, 1869, the Foreign Office called the attention of my predecessor to an extract from a Melbourne journal containing a copy of an Address to the President of the United States, inviting the Protectorate of the United States Government. Lord Granville observed in reply that, in his opinion, it was not desirable that this country should take the responsibility of the Government of Fiji, and that he considered that there would be more disadvantage in doing so than in the risk of the United States assuming the Protectorate.

In March, 1870, the Foreign Office received a Despatch from Sir E. Thornton, stating that he had reason to believe that the United States' Government had no intention to establish a Protectorate over Fiji.

In a Despatch dated the 20th of May, 1870, the Governor of Victoria expressed his opinion that, at the approaching Conference, all the Australian Colonies would unite in a representation to Her Majesty's Government in favour of the establishment of British supremacy in the Fiji Islands, and in deprecating the introduction of a foreign Government or Protectorate; and on the 15th of July following, Lord Canterbury enclosed an extract of a Resolution adopted at the Conference, "for obtaining the establishment of a British Protec- "torate over the Fiji Islands."

On the 12th of August, Lord Canterbury forwarded a Memorandum from his Ministers, urging the importance of the question.

Two Memorials dated in 1870 were also received at the Foreign Office from Native Chiefs and others, praying for British protection.

On the 16th of March, 1871, in answer to Lord Canterbury's Despatch sending the Memorandum of his Ministers, I stated that Her Majesty's Government could not depart from their former decision not to extend British Sovereignty over the Islands, and a copy of this Despatch was sent to the Governor of New South Wales.

On the 15th of July, 1871, I transmitted to the Governor of New South Wales a copy of a Despatch received through the Foreign Office, covering a petition from Dr. Laing to the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, praying for the annexation of the Islands; and the Foreign Office was informed in reply (15th July), that Dr. Laing was in error in supposing that there was authority in the Governor's Commission for annexing and establishing a regular Government in the Fiji Islands as a dependency of New South Wales.

On the 9th of August, 1871, the Governor of New South Wales sent to me a copy of a letter addressed to him by Sir J. Martin (as First Minister) in answer to the Despatch to Lord Canterbury of the 16th of March, in which Sir J. Martin deprecated the refusal of Her Majesty's Government to annex the Islands, and with reference to a rumoured proposal to place the Islands under the protection of New South Wales, declined, on the part of the Colony, to accept the responsibility of their Government for reasons which he assigned. My reply to this communication is contained in my Despatch of the 3rd of November, 1871.*

On the 19th of April, 1872, Sir A. Stephen, then administering the Government of New South Wales, remarked,† in reference to the above-mentioned Despatch, that he considered that the question had been disposed of by Sir James Martin's letter, enclosed in Lord Belmore's Despatch of 9th August.‡

On the 14th August, 1872, I addressed a Circular Despatch to the Governors of the Australasian Colonies, informing them, with reference to questions which had arisen as to the status of British subjects in connection with Fiji, that Her Majesty's Government were advised that British subjects could not, beyond the limits of the new State not yet duly recognized, be accepted as citizens of that State; nor be held exempted from British jurisdiction for acts done by them on British territory, or on board ships which ought to be navigated under the British flag; nor in respect of engagements, the construction of which would properly, and ordinarily, be triable before a British tribunal. And I further explained that Her Majesty's Government might interfere with the acts and engagements of British subjects within Fiji, and might declare certain acts and engagements to be legal or illegal in the case of British subjects within Fiji.

On the 6th of November, 1872, the Governor of Victoria reported that an agitation had been set on foot in that Colony in favour of the annexation of Fiji, but with little success.

On the 19th of October, and again on the 16th of December, 1872, Mr. Thurston, on behalf of the existing Fijian Government, addressed to Earl Granville letters on the subject of Fijian affairs, copies of which are annexed; and on the 31st of January, 1873, Mr. Thurston inquired of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether Her Majesty's Government would entertain a proposition from the Government of Fiji to cede the kingdom to Her Britannic Majesty, if its King and people once more, and now through the King's responsible advisers, express a desire to place themselves under Her Majesty's rule, and requested a reply by telegraph.

In reply to this last letter, the Governor of New South Wales has been instructed by telegraph to inform Mr. Thurston that the inquiry which you are desired to hold will be instituted.

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* Parliamentary Paper, C. 509, page 2. † Parliamentary Paper, 124, No. 3.
‡ Parliamentary Paper, C. 509, page 1.

In the actual position at which the affairs of Fiji have thus arrived, there appear to be four possible modes of action open to Her Majesty's Government:—

(1.) To invest the British Consul with magisterial power over British subjects settled in the Islands.

(2.) To recognize the Government which now exists in the Islands, and which has already been dealt with as a de facto Government.

(3.) To establish a British Protectorate over the Islands.

(4.) The assumption by Her Majesty of territorial Sovereignty over the Islands, and, as a necessary sequence, the constitution within them of some form of Colonial Government.

With regard to the first of these propositions, I have to refer you to the Memorandum (enclosed herewith) by Mr. March, in which he has explained the nature of the jurisdiction which he thinks might be exercised by a Consul-General supported by a cruiser and a small force of police, over Her Majesty's subjects settled or trading in Fiji or among the neighbouring islands. It would be difficult to justify the establishment of such Consular jurisdiction, unless it can be shown that the country in which it is to be exercised does not possess a Government capable of controlling those who reside within its limits; and, apart from the difficulties which might attend the practical working of Mr. March's scheme, the question arises whether the time may not have gone by for adopting such a measure in the case of Fiji. But supposing Her Majesty's Government should be of opinion that there is no objection in principle to conferring such powers upon the British Consul, various important questions would have to be answered before they could take this step, as, for example, (1) whether the Government now holding power in Fiji would acquiesce in such an arrangement, or could properly be required to accept it; (2) whether the settlers of British origin would submit to such Consular jurisdiction, or could be compelled to do so; (3) in the event of such jurisdiction being established over British subjects, what would be the position of other persons of European origin not being British subjects; (4) what would be the status of vessels owned by British subjects in Fiji, and whether in the event of such vessels being placed for any reason under the Fijian flag, Her Majesty's Government could practically refuse to recognize them as having thereby acquired any rights or immunities which they would not possess if they remained under the British flag. You will understand that Her Majesty's Government do not desire your opinion on the legal difficulties attending this scheme, but on the question whether its adoption would be expedient and practicable in the present state of the Islands.

7th May.

It would be a most important part of the duty of a Consul invested with such powers to enforce upon British settlers obedience to all proper regulations (whether those of the local Government, or such as the Consul, with the approval of Her Majesty's Government, might himself promulgate) with respect to the employment of Polynesian immigrants and other coloured labourers.

You will pay particular attention to this part of the subject, as no arrangement would be satisfactory to Her Majesty's Government which failed to provide adequately for the prevention of the abuses which have arisen in connection with the importation of Polynesian labourers into Fiji and their employment there by the white settlers.

Proceeding next to the suggestion that the Government now existing in Fiji should receive full recognition, the following are among the principal points to which I have to direct your attention.

It would be necessary to ascertain (1) to what extent is the actual Government acknowledged throughout the Islands by either the natives or by the white settlers; (2) whether the resistance which has recently been offered to it is grounded upon a belief that it is not properly constituted, and has no sufficient title to the power which it affects to exercise, or to an objection to the persons now constituting the Administration, such as would be removed by the substitution of persons possessing in a greater degree the confidence of the inhabitants; (3) whether there is a reasonable prospect that a Government so constituted will possess stability, and will be able to preserve order and to punish crime.

(4.) It would be especially important to learn what securities the Fijian Government, if recognized, would be prepared to give that slavery should not, in any form, directly or indirectly, exist in the Islands; that kidnapping, whether carried on in ships under the Fijian flag or under other flags, should, as far as lay in their power, be effectually repressed; and that labourers imported from other islands should be humanely treated, and should only be employed in accordance with contracts freely entered into by them. Her Majesty's Government would not be satisfied with regulations less favourable to the Polynesian immigrants than those established in Queensland, as shown in the Acts and Regulations appended to this letter; and they would require that the Fijian Government should, as a condition of recognition, enter into a formal Treaty with this country, giving Her Majesty's cruisers the same rights of search in the case of Fijian ships engaged in carrying Polynesians to Fiji as

of British ships, and embodying complete and stringent regulations for the prevention of kidnapping, and for the proper treatment of Polynesian and other immigrants, such as are contained in the Queensland Acts on this subject, and in the Imperial Act (35 and 36 Vict. cap. 19) for the suppression of kidnapping. Her Majesty's Government would also expect that the Fijian Government should enter into a stipulation securing to British subjects and British commerce in Fiji, to the fullest extent, the treatment accorded to the most-favoured nation, and that British ships in Fijian ports should receive the same treatment and enjoy the same privileges as national vessels.

I may dismiss more briefly the third suggestion that has been made, namely, that Her Majesty's Government should establish a Protectorate over Fiji. The objections to a Protectorate are obvious, inasmuch as it would impose upon the protecting power undefined responsibilities, with limited power of discharging such responsibilities; and it can scarcely be doubted that in such a state of society as must for a long time prevail in Fiji, many things would be done or tolerated by the local authorities which this country could not as a protecting Power pass over in silence without discredit, and interference as to which would before long irresistibly tend to the exercise of direct control over the local Government. At the same time it will be desirable that you should ascertain whether a Protectorate meets with favour in the Islands, and if so, what are the conditions under which it is considered that it could be advantageously exercised.

I now come to the fourth and last of the possible courses which I have enumerated, namely, the annexation of the Islands to the territories of the British Crown.

Before the adoption of so grave a measure could be seriously entertained, it is necessary that full and satisfactory explanations should be given on some very material points, on which hitherto no sufficient information has been furnished.

(1.) Whether Thakobau and the other native Chiefs and the native population generally, as well as the white settlers, desire and would acquiesce in the establishment of the authority of the British Crown over the Islands? Full inquiry should be made as to the power and authority of the Chiefs to make over the sovereignty. (2.) What form of Government is it proposed should be established in the Islands in the event of their becoming British? (3.) Is it supposed, having regard to the numbers and nationality of the white residents, and of the native population, that responsible Government, as it exists in the neighbouring Colonies, would be appropriate to Fiji, and if so, is there among the settlers a sufficient number of persons qualified to supply the materials for an elected Legislature and for an Executive Government composed of members of that Legislature? (4.) How, if at all, would the natives be represented in the Legislature? (5.) If, on the other hand, it is considered that the control of public affairs should rest, as in a Crown Colony, with the Governor, subject to the instructions of the Secretary of State, would it be proposed to admit the settlers to some voice in the Council of Government, and would it be necessary or expedient that the native element of the population should likewise be represented in the Council? (6.) What would be the probable expenses of the Government? It would be desirable that upon this point some general statement should be laid before Her Majesty's Government of the nature of the civil establishments which would have to be created, distinguishing judicial from other officers, with an estimate of their salaries, and the other consequent expenses. (7.) What is the actual revenue now levied by the existing Government? What are the sources from which it is derived? To what extent and in what manner can it be increased, and what amount of revenue can reasonably be calculated upon as permanent? (8.) In what hands is the control over the revenue and expenditure to be lodged; especially, how far could such control, in any circumstances, be exercised from this country?

It has been reported that the existing Government has contracted a considerable debt. Full particulars should be ascertained as to this debt, the amount of the principal and interest, the circumstances under which it has been contracted, the persons from whom it has been borrowed, the validity of the engagements entered into with them, the manner in which the money so obtained has been expended, and the precise extent of the obligations which would have to be assumed in respect of this debt by the future Government of Fiji, if the Islands should be annexed to the British Crown. It will, of course, be understood that Her Majesty's Government could not consent to make the revenues of this country liable in any way for this debt, or to charge upon them any portion of the cost of the local Government, or of maintaining order within the Islands.

Closely connected with the question of the expense of the Government is the question of the amount and character of the force which would have to be maintained in the Islands for the preservation of order and the protection of life and property. If responsible Government were established, this duty would, of course, devolve entirely upon the local Government, as Her Majesty's Government could not be answerable for the results of a policy

which they did not directly control. But it would not be sufficient for the settlers to express their readiness to undertake the management of their internal affairs, and the maintenance of order, unless there were good reason to believe that they would be able to discharge such obligations effectively on principles which Her Majesty's Government could approve. Assuming the character of the natives, with perhaps the exception of the mountain tribes in Viti Levu, not to be warlike, and their distribution among numerous islands to throw difficulties in the way of their acting in combination, it is nevertheless obvious that a native population estimated at as many as 170,000, liable at any moment to come into collision with the white settlers whose plantations are scattered in all directions, could not be efficiently controlled without a considerable and thoroughly organized armed force.

It would have to be determined what should be the nature of this force; whether it should be a military or a police force, or of both kinds; whether white or coloured; and whether it could be recruited altogether or partly within the Islands. Upon the answers to these questions would depend what would be the cost of this force, and whether the Islands could provide for that cost.

Provision would have to be made for the rapid concentration of any forces that might be required to meet a sudden emergency in one of the Islands, and for the enforcement of the law and suppression of crime over a very large extent of seaboard. It should be considered whether this requirement could be met by the organization of a water police, or whether the aid of one or more armed Colonial vessels would be necessary to support the authority of the Government; and, further, what amount of aid the local Government would probably require from Her Majesty's ships.

There are numerous other islands in the South Seas, both near to and at some distance from Fiji, on some of which British settlers are already established, and many of which are believed to be not less fertile and suitable for settlement than Fiji. One of the principal arguments for the annexation of the Fiji Islands has been that this would be at once the most effective and the most economical mode of repressing the kidnapping practices, to prevent which it has been found necessary to station a large naval force in the South Seas. Is there good reason to expect that, in the event of Her Majesty's Government assuming direct control over the Fiji group, the same abuses which had been checked in these particular Islands would not be transferred to other islands in which lawless proceedings could be carried on with comparatively little hindrance?

Another important subject, as to which the information before Her Majesty's Government is very imperfect, is the tenure and ownership of the land in Fiji. On this head you should make careful inquiry: (1) whether the title to the land is fully vested in the King or Chiefs; (2) whether there are any tribal rights or local customs which affect or limit their power to grant and dispose of it; (3) whether it is proposed that unalienated land shall be absolutely surrendered to the Queen, or shall continue to remain in the hands of its native owners until conveyed to private purchasers; (4) on what terms and conditions land is now occupied or owned by white settlers; (5) what proportion of the land in the Islands is in such occupation, and what amount remains available for future settlement. With regard to the capabilities of the soil much information is given in the Report by Dr. Seeman which follows the Report by Colonel Smythe; but it will be desirable to have a further statement as to the practical success which has attended the cultivation (whether by Europeans or natives) of cotton, sugar, or any other staple article of export during the past twelve years, and as to the amount of trade which is at present carried on with the Islands, and the prospects of its further increase.

In the papers to which I have referred you, you will find allusion made to the claim of the United States Government against King Thakobau, and the steps which have been taken with a view to the liquidation of that claim. You will report whether Mr. March's memorandum recently furnished on this subject requires any addition or correction. As the land suitable for cultivation in Fiji appears to be limited by the mountainous formation of the Islands to a comparatively small area, the field open for future settlers must be greatly circumscribed if the title of the Melbourne Company to 200,000 acres of the best land is a good one. And as it might be necessary to raise a revenue from land, it should be distinctly ascertained whether those who claim to have already acquired freehold rights in the land would he prepared for the imposition of a land tax or other like charge.

In the event of the Fiji Islands being brought under British sovereignty, important and probably embarrassing questions would arise as to the position of Thakobau and the other Chiefs, and the status of the native population. Her Majesty's Government desire to know what are the expectations of Thakobau and the other principal Chiefs, as well as the recommendations of the existing Government, on this head, and how far those recommendations would be likely to be acquiesced in by the Chiefs. The utmost care should be taken that the Chiefs thoroughly comprehend all that is proposed on a subject which is so

likely to be productive of difficulties hereafter. If it is suggested that the rights and privileges of the King and Chiefs should be commuted for an annual stipend or pension, or that the native title to land should be similarly extinguished, you will carefully consider whether the amounts proposed to be paid, and the other conditions, appear equitable, and such as the natives are not likely hereafter to repudiate.

Colonel Smythe stated in his Report that among more than two-thirds of the native population, cannibalism, strangulation of widows, infanticide, and other enormities prevailed to a frightful extent. It should be ascertained whether any material improvement in these respects has taken place during late years; whether there are any other native customs which could not be tolerated under British rule; and whether the suppression of such practices or customs would be attended with danger or difficulty. If there is any system of domestic slavery in the Islands, the particulars of it should be furnished.

In conclusion, I have to add that you will understand that whilst it is the desire of Her Majesty's Government to obtain, with reference to the points presented to you, and to all others which may suggest themselves to your minds, the expression of your deliberate and impartial judgment, formed after a careful examination of the facts upon the spot, they are not only far from desiring any increase of British territory, but they would regard the extension of British sovereignty to Fiji as a measure which could in no case be adopted unless it were proved to be the only means of escape from evils for which this country might be justly held to be bound to provide an adequate remedy. If the Fiji Islands are capable of being ruled in a tolerable manner by a Government which is in any real or even qualified sense their own and indigenous, it can scarcely be doubted that the establishment of such a Government would be more conducive to the interests of the British Empire as well as of the Islands themselves, than that this country should assume the heavy responsibility of governing a dependency inhabited by a large native population at the other side of the globe.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

Enclosure No. 5.

MEMORANDUM by CONSUL MARCH respecting AFFAIRS in FIJI.

3, Park Place, Clarence Gate, London, May 7, 1873.

At the time of my leaving Fiji the state of affairs in those Islands was verging upon a crisis. The opposition to the Government, confined at first to Levuka, the centre of the movement, and at one time put down by extraneous pressure, recommenced with renewed vigour and spread throughout the group. Requisitions were sent to all the members of the Legislative Assembly to resign their seats, and as these, with one or two exceptions, fully concurred with their constituents, they obeyed. About this time the Premier returned to Fiji, after a prolonged absence in the Colonies, where he had been endeavouring to raise a loan of 20,000*l.* wherewith to meet a portion of the large amount of paper issued by the Fijian treasury. The negociations, though unsuccessful, terminated in his obtaining a credit of 5,000*l.* This was effected as follows: Certain houses in Sydney had outstanding claims on planters in Fiji. It was represented to them that unless there was an established Government in that region, with law courts, &c., they could never expect to recover their debts. Five merchants were thus induced to open this credit at the rate of 1000*l.* each for the purpose of continuing the Government. This credit can be stopped at any time. I learnt these facts in Sydney, where Fijian affairs have gained an unenviable notoriety. Private advices from Fiji also inform me that the planters were in a state of excitement at the news received there of Mr. Wood's proceedings. They had held public meetings, and the subject was discussed of gaining possession of whatever funds Mr. Woods might bring, and returning them to Sydney, the country being already hampered with a heavy debt. In all the districts the settlers had passed resolutions highly inimical to the Government, and in some they were organizing an armed resistance. At the same time, the feeling in favour of annexation was as wide-spread as it could be. That this state of affairs cannot continue is evident, and the question arises, what is to substitute it? The fear of the results of a change has hitherto lent the Government the little vitality it possesses. Admitting, which is improbable, that this Government could consolidate itself, it would at the best be but a Government in which the whole power would be vested in the whites, and as these scarcely amount to 2,000 including women and children, and there are 170,000 aborigines, matters would soon become embroiled beyond remedy by a war of races; for the Europeans would legislate in their own favour, as they have hitherto done in all important questions touching their interests, such, for instance, as land and labour. To turn aside these dangers, and since annexation is not at present the policy of Her Majesty's Government, I would respectfully submit the following alternative. Granted that no adequate Government exists in Fiji, the native race should be left to govern itself by its own laws and customs, improved from time to time by the example and teaching of civilization. Thakobau would then return to the position he has always held, and govern the westerm portion of Fiji, whilst Maafu and Tui Thakau would hold sway as formerly over the Windward Islands. This is the real state of affairs at the present day, for the alleged subjection of the two latter chiefs exists only in appearance, they having

farmed their positions for certain yearly payments, which like former arrangements of a somewhat similar nature, may at any moment de terminated.

Greatly in favour of what I am submitting, is the fact that the present system is calculated to show the native population that their strength and the power of attacking the whites with success consists in union; whereas in the old and natural state of affairs, the numerous tribes of Fiji were separate and never in harmony with each other. Therefore it may be emphatically said that the safety and the lives of the settlers depend upon a return to the former primitive condition of things in so far as the native race is concerned. Nor would this be a selfish policy, as the so-styled King is already meditating a war of conquests in the interior of the island of Viti Levu, which does not recognize his rule, and the troops that he is organizing on the European system might easily be turned against the whites.

The European population is composed of some 1,700 adults, of whom a least 1,400 are British subjects, the remainder being Americans and Germans, with a few other nationalities of no importance. The United States have a Commercial Agent in Levuka vested with magisterial powers, and there was a rumour of the approaching appointment of a German Consul. The British authority should, in view of the extended sphere of his duties, hold the rank of Consul-General with full jurisdiction (including magisterial) over British subjects in the Fijis, the Tonga Islands, the New Hebrides, and such other places as are resorted to by them for labour or trading purposes, when their distance is not too great. With magisterial powers, a Vice-Consul, a clerk, an interpreter, six European policemen, and a jail, and a small cruiser subject to his instructions, that officer would be in a position to meet the requirements of the day, and maintain law and order. He would appoint unpaid Consular Agents in such districts of the group as he might deem proper, whose duty it would be to superintend the imported labourers on the plantations, and refer to their chief, the Consul, the differences among their own countrymen which they had been unable to arrange by arbitration. They would also be required to keep registers of imported labourers and watch over their well-being. They would be of the greatest service in the numberless misunderstandings between the planters and natives, which, owing to the distance from Levuka and the time they remain pending before the Consul can make himself acquainted with them, create much bad feeling, and often lead to lamentable results. The cruising-vessel above referred to should be specially destined to convey the Consul from time to time round his district for the inspection of imported labour on the plantations, whilst the Vice-Consul would carry on the duties of the office in Levuka.

It is reasonable to suppose that the planters would not object to this supervision; but, in the contrary case, the Labour Regulations (which would necessarily have to be made law) could contain provisions to meet this contingency. I apprehend, however, that the Pacific Islanders Protection Bill passed this year, if rigidly enforced, will in a great measure meet the requirements of the case.

The discretionary power vested in the Consul by paragrapn 5, of granting or withholding a licence to a British vessel to recruit labourers, enables him to remove all probability of wrong-doing; whilst the onus which is thrown upon the masters, of proving that the natives had embarked of their own free will (paragraph 9) would exercise such a deterrent effect as to prevent the intrusion of kidnappers into the trade, and discourage others from embarking in it. To render the Consul's action effective in all these matters, he would have to be supported by the presence of a ship of war.

It should be mentioned that disputes between Europeans of different nationalities would be settled by the joint action of their Consuls; and those between Europeans and natives by the Consuls and native Chiefs.

The extra expense which these suggestions involve could be met by a Table of Fees, framed for Fiji, with special reference to the labour trade.

(Signed) EDWARD MARCH.

Enclosure No. 6.

MEMORANDUM by CONSUL MARCH respecting the CLAIM of the UNITED STATES on KING THAKOMBAU for 45,000 dollars.

London, May 14, 1873.

The circumstances under which Thakombau was made responsible for a fine of 45,000 dollars, and his present position towards the United States' Government, may be epitomized as follows:—The natives of Ovalau, Bau, and Viwa. at various times previous to the year 1849, had robbed and ill-treated several American subjects residing in or trading to the Islands; but their principal offence was committed upon the 4th of July, 1849. Upon that day the American Consul, celebrating the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, fired a salute to the windward of his native-built house, and the wind carrying one of the burning wads upon the thatch, set the building on fire. Very little was saved. Under the pretext of assisting, the natives stole the few articles rescued from the flames. The Consul therefore, in 1851, taking advantage of the presence of a United States' ship of war—the 'St. Mary'—sent in a statement of the value of goods stolen, amounting to 5,001 dol. 30 c. Subsequently interest was added, swelling the claim to 6,166 dol. 19 c. In 1855 it had increased to 19,365 dollars. Other claims preferred in 1851 had also, by some strange process, increased as follows:—

	1851.	1855, Increased to		1851.	1855, Increased to
	$ c.	$ c.	New claims—	$ c.	$ c.
J. B. Williams	5,001 38	19,365 00	Tim Pickering	—	2,800 00
Chamberlain	4,000 00	7,300 00	Rider	—	1,500 00
D. Whippy	1,500 00	6,000 00	Wilkinson, Brothers	—	4,000 00
Ship 'Elizabeth'	1,000 00	1,000 00	Shattuck & McAmber	—	2,600 00

These claims were admitted by Commander Boutwell, but upon what grounds it was not clear, even to the United States' Government. An American journal, published at the time, said—"Having thus "arrived at a satisfactory conclusion, a paper was drawn up, called a Treaty, which Thackombau, under "the heaviest threats, was forced to sign. Therein he undertook to pay the sum claimed in two years, "with another extorted promise that, if he failed, he would resign the government of Bau, and go volun- "tarily on board a United States' ship of war, and submit to any punishment the Commander might think "proper to inflict. On returning from the 'John Adams,' where he had been compelled to sign the so-called "Treaty, acknowledging the justice of the claims and promising to pay the 45,000 dollars in two years, "Thakombau addressed a protest to the United States' Consul in Sydney, for transmission to his "Government."

The foregoing remarks have not only never been disproved, but it has been admitted that the claim of Consul Williams was unjust. So late as October, 1869, the commander of the United States' ship 'James- 'town,' in writing to Thakombau, officially addressed him as King *in* Fiji, the Chief having declined to go on board if he was to be received as King *of* Fiji. At this visit a Court of Arbitration for adjudicating on all matters in dispute was held on board, on the 28th of October, 1869. It consisted of three officers of the ship and two American citizens, settlers in the group; one of whom, Mr. D. Whippy, was a claimant for 6,000 dollars. In the matter of Consul William's claim, the Court found as follows:—

"By an original statement of his losses, made in his own handwriting, he claims the sum of "6,166 dol. 19 c., of which 2,048 dol. 57 c. is interest. It appears from the records of the United States' "Consulate, that in 1858 he was allowed by Commander Sinclair and a board of officers of the United "States' ship 'Vandalia,' an additional sum of 1,054 dollars for damage sustained in 1858, making a "total of 7,199 dol. 67 c., which is all the amount of his claim sustained by tradition or the records of the "Consulate, and yet he stands on the list of awards as entitled to 19,365 dollars. There is no possible way "of accounting for this great and strange discrepancy." It is, however, extraordinary that the resident United States' Commercial Agent should have failed to apprize his Government that the enormous claim which he was pressing upon a helpless savage was neither supported "by tradition nor the records of his "office;" and when it is known that he acted as the agent or administrator to the estate of the late J. B. Williams, the claimant, and is therefore likely to have the best evidence of that gentleman's real loss, the fact is more inexplicable.

These claims, amounting to 10,000*l.*, were taken up by a company formed for that purpose in Melbourne, composed of British subjects. This company engaged—

1st. To pay off the American debt of 45,000 dollars;

2nd. Give Thakombau an annuity of 200*l.*

3rd. Aid and assist him in upholding and defending his kingdom, by supplying him with an armed steamer whenever he might require one.

For these considerations the Chief engaged—

1st. To make over to the Company 200,000 acres of land in different parts of Fiji.

2nd. To give them a banking monopoly.

3rd. A pre-emptive right to all lands in his territory.

Thus, a very large portion of Fijian territory was made over to an English company. The last instal- ment of the debt was paid more than a year ago, but the Company have been unable to gain possession of all the land, for the simple reason that much of it did not belong to Thakombau, and was in districts independent of his rule. From this has resulted much ill-feeling and dishonesty. The Company, consisting of three or four obscure individuals, paid the debt with the proceeds of the allotments of land, which, on the purchasers proceeding to occupy, were found either to have no existence, or to appertain to independent Chiefs. Thus, Thakombau deceived the Company, and the Company cheated its clients, who in their turn settled themselves on the debatable ground, and thus commenced an epoch of quarrels and outrages between the whites and natives.

(Signed) EDWARD MARCH, Consul.

Enclosure No. 7.

Mr. THURSTON to EARL GRANVILLE.

MY LORD, Foreign Office, Fiji, October 19, 1872.

My attention having been drawn to the debate following Mr. McArthur's motion in the House of Commons, touching the establishment of a Protectorate over, or the annexation of this kingdom, and par- ticularly to the very erroneous statements made by the originator of the motion, as well as by many gentlemen who took part in the debate, I deem it my duty to address your Lordship upon the subject.

In doing this I have no intention of attempting anything in the shape of an exhaustive criticism, or reply to Mr. McArthur's allegations, for, with the exception of his opening remarks upon the offered cession of these Islands, through Mr. Consul Pritchard, the result of Colonel Smythe's mission and one or two facts obtained principally from the Parliamentary Blue Book upon the subject of that mission, the whole tenor of his speech was more marked by the absence of than the existence of trustworthy information upon his part as to the actual state of affairs in this country.

From the speech of Mr. McArthur, as reported in the 'Times,' I observed that reference was made to the Reports of Mr. Consul March, which describe a state of society here as "horrible as any existing upon "the face of the earth." Whether Mr. March has written thus in the Annual Consular Commercial Report, or whether, as in Fiji, he has obliged his friends with copies of strictly official documents does not appear, but whichever it may be, it is my duty to do more than question the veracity of such Reports. They are, if correctly reported, absolute misrepresentations.

With this I beg leave to inclose an extract from Mr. McArthur's speech, copied from the 'Times,' relating, first, to an insult offered to Mr. March by a very subordinate Government Officer; secondly, to certain natives confined on board the ship 'Peri.'

In submitting to your Lordship my view of the first case, I may be allowed to observe that, at the time of the occurrence, I had no connection whatever with this Government; that my final consent to take an active part in Fijian affairs was at the request of the opponents no less than the supporters of the Government movement; that, at the date of my taking office, my best efforts were directed in favour of Mr. Consul March; that I was, for more than five years, connected with the post Mr. March now holds; that I am English by birth and in feeling, and yield not to him or any gentlemen, in point of jealousy for the honour and dignity of the British flag. Thus, without egotism, I may claim some qualification necessary in an impartial inquiry into this alleged insult to Her Majesty's Consul.

It appears from all I have been able to learn of this matter, that Mr. Consul March was being pulled ashore from a ship, or, as others assert, was pulling about for pleasure, in a small skiff. That, while so doing, he approached the 'Peri,' a small schooner of some twenty or thirty tons burden, on board of which twelve Solomon Islanders were confined for having, a few days before, murdered the crew and passengers of a little cutter, named the 'Meva,' and run away with the vessel.

Mr. Consul March wanted to board the 'Peri,' but the Government of that day having given stringent orders, on account of the great public excitement existing, that no person was to be allowed on board, the officer in charge requested Mr. March, first civilly and then roughly, to remain in his boat. Mr. March, who, the officer affirms, was in plain clothes and unknown to him (and the contrary has never been shown), then attempted to force his way over the side. The man, one Gough, then drew a revolver and threatened Mr. March, who retired to his boat.

The next few minutes appear to have been occupied by Gough in grossly abusing Mr. March, but at the same time stating he would not fire. Mr. March then vaulted on board and invited Gough to shoot him, and so this unseemely altercation continued until Mr. March went ashore.

In addition to Gough not knowing Mr. March, it was proved that he was also somewhat tipsy, and for this he was dismissed.

Whether Mr. Consul March acted with prudence or right in this matter your Lordship will decide; but the inquiries I have made have led me to the conclusion that Mr. March was insulted, not as Her Majesty's Cousul, but as an unknown person who wanted to force himself into a place where the janitor believed he had no right of entry.

This matter was finally settled since my acceptance of office; and during the visit of Her Britannic Majesty's 'Cossack,' Captain Douglas, having inquired into the affair, found (as I had done) that, recent as the event is, no positive evidence is forthcoming on either side. The case is one that may be termed "hard swearing." So, very properly, he supported his official colleague, and demanded an apology and the dismissal of Gough. This latter having been already done by the late Ministry, the present Cabinet invited Captain Douglas to name the terms of an apology which would satisfy the honour of Her Britannic Majesty's Government. He did so, and the subject is, I apprehend, irrevocably settled.

Having thus yielded to the doubts that Her Majesty's uniform or flag was insulted by a semi-drunken servant of this Government, under circumstances which involve a question of prudence on the part of the officer representing Her Majesty's Government, I may inform your Lordship that the insults and injuries submitted to by the King Thakobau and his Ministers at the hands of Mr. Consul March were matters which Captain Douglas was not pressed to investigate, as the only acceptable redress requires the removal of Mr. Consul March from the country and the society he has done so much to injure and insult.

Mr. McArthur says, with reference to the 'Peri,' that there appears no doubt the natives on board had been kidnapped, that they arose against their captors with the result already stated, and that, when brought to Fiji, "they were kept closely packed together in the dark hold of the 'Peri,' by the so-called Government "of King Thakobau, where one of them committed suicide by dashing his brains out against the side of the "ship." "What is known of the subsequent history of the 'Peri' justifies the belief that they afterwards "succeeded in killing their guards and in making their escape with the vessel until the latter was picked up "by Her Majesty's ship 'Basilisk.'"

The 'Peri' never made a voyage in quest of labourers. No Solomon Islanders, upon any voyage, were kept in close confinement below. Mr. McArthur is unwittingly (but from my experience of Mr. March's despatches, I am sure he could not do otherwise) confounding two separate and distinct events.

When Mr. March boarded the 'Peri,' not "after ascertaining that the Captain was on board," but after a sworn-in special constable had warned him off, there were on board certain natives of the Solomon Islands who had lately arrived in Fiji in the British ship 'Lismore,' and who through Mr. March had been hired out to several planters. The Government, then fighting for existence, had nothing to do with this matter. And here I may conveniently say that had Mr. March co-operated with the Government in its really earnest endeavours to suppress any improper traffic, instead of making such strong personal opposition, much injustice, much misery, and many valuable lives might have been spared.

These Islanders, engaged under Consular auspices, were taken from the 'Lismore' by British settlers residing upon the Island of Faremii. They sailed from Levuka in a small cutter called the 'Meva,' and, when some twenty miles outside, the white men, together with the Fijian crew, were, while taking supper, set upon by the Solomon Islanders, and, with the exception of a Fijian, who swam nearly fifteen miles to land, all killed.

The murderers then endeavoured to get out of Fiji with the 'Meva,' but, after the lapse of some days, ran ashore at the Yasawa Islands, and were made prisoners by the Fijian Chiefs and the settlers. These were the men on board the 'Peri' when Mr. March visited that ship. They were afterwards indicted for murder, but the evidence of their having been kidnapped by the 'Lismore' was so convincing, that, spite of their having killed five most worthy men, they were discharged from custody.

Your Lordship will not recognize in this, nor, I trust, in any other of our doings the action of an "independent buccaneering Government."

Some time after this event the 'Peri,' being at the Rewa River, embarked from the schooner 'Nurkulan'

FIJI ISLANDS.

some hundred natives from the Solomon Islands. She was then under the Fijian flag. The 'Peri' le t Rewa for Taviuni, about 100 miles distant; but from the date of her departure everything is involved in mystery until her discovery by Her Majesty's ship 'Basilisk.' It is probable that the 'Nurkulan's' passengers, like those of the 'Lismore' examined and passed by the Consul, or like those brought by the British brig 'Carl,' also passed by the Consul (who failed to discover any evidences of the horrible massacre that had taken place), were all kidnapped, and retaliated as did the 'Mever's' men upon the first opportunity. But the Government of King Thakobau, so called or otherwise, had nothing whatever to do with the matter. It is not even in a remote degree responsible for this event, whereas Mr. March, who, in the eyes of Mr. McArthur is a very ill-used gentleman, was so to some extent for the murder of five of his compatriots, for upon the guarantee of his examination they hired the people, who instantly slaughtered them.

As a matter of fact no natives examined and passed by the native Commissioner have committed as yet any offences, and your Lordship will note, in the contents of Rex v. Peckham, that King Thakobau's Ministers have the will and the power, notwithstanding the opposition and assertions of Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, to execute the laws with a firm hand.

I have had already to call the attention of Mr. Consul March to his remarks upon the 'Carl' case. By the exercise of a talent which would be estimable if differently directed, Her Majesty's Consul manages to debit Fiji with the whole sin of this horrible affair, and seeks to acquire great capital from the fact of Thakobau's Minister having passed her passengers as satisfactorily procured when he, the Consul, found out they were kidnapped.

Mr. March may probably omit some matters in connection with this case, which, although occurring before my taking office, I may be able to supply.

The 'Carl' made two voyages to Fiji with labourers. It was upon the first one that the massacre of seventy souls took place. The hold was whitewashed by the crew to efface stains and bullet-marks, and upon her arrival in Fiji the surviving natives were passed by the Consul.

Upon her return from her second voyage, Mr. Hennings, then Minister for Native Affairs, invited Mr. Consul March (see Enclosure No. 3) to accompany him on board the 'Carl' at 2 o'clock P.M. on the 23rd April, and Mr. Hennings received a reply at 5 o'clock, after he had visited the 'Carl' (reply also enclosed). What Mr. March meant by the "needful," or by "the proceedings" he intended "to adopt," Mr. Hennings is not aware, and avers the whole substance of the morning's conversation is contained in the note initialed F. W. H.

Certainly, if the Consul was in possession of information that the islanders per 'Carl' had been kidnapped, I conceive it would have been far more consistent with his position to have said so, and at once furnished the Government with any information in his power, instead of confining it to himself, for the mere sake of acquiring capital. I can so far bear out the accuracy of Mr. Hennings' Memorandum as to testify that for a week after the date of this letter the intending employers and natives daily crowded the hill upon which the Consulate is built without Mr. March deciding what "proceedings" he would take The Consul's letter is not directed to one of "King Thakobau's Ministers," but to the agent of the 'Carl.' Mr. March would not address any official, and yet great odium is cast upon this Government for the fact of one of "King Thakobau's Ministers" passing these men. It is forgotten that Her Majesty's Consul did the same thing upon the first piratical voyage; that it was he who passed the 'Lismore's' men, and, worse still, men brought by the steamer 'Wainui,' with many others that could be enumerated.

And at this present moment how stands the case? Certain men stated, with a greater or less degree of truth, to be objectionable persons, have gone out of office; and others, against whom neither here nor in the Colonies can one word of reproach be heard, who are striving to the best of their humble abilities to advance this country, and efface the blot which has disfigured it, have taken their places, yet still the opposition emanating from Her Majesty's Consul is not withdrawn. My Lord, I frankly and boldly tell you that at present it is not Mr. Consul March "fighting a host of unscrupulous adventurers, who are doing "their utmost to reduce the natives of Polynesia to the condition of slaves," but that it is two or three disinterested men striving to raise the Polynesian from the slavery and degradation in which for ages he has been plunged, and whose efforts are obstructed and policy traversed almost solely by the gentleman who now fills the post of British Consul.

Clothed with the authority aud ægis of his office, Her Majesty's Consul is a powerful opponent; let that be removed, and none in Fiji more weak.

If I write strongly upon this subject, I throw myself upon your Lordship's generous consideration. I am not skilled to confine my words where I feel so strongly the truth of which I write. I pray you, my Lord, and, through your Lordship, Her Majesty's Government, in the name of this struggling country, to consider our efforts, our anxieties, and our enormous difficulties, and decide, with what speed your Lordship may, whether the King's Ministers, unfettered and unopposed by an objectionable functionary, may be encouraged to continue the work they have commenced at the request of the King and Chiefs, and not of their own motion, or whether, actuated by general national policy or any particular theory as to the interests of humanity and civilization in the Pacific, Her Majesty's Government intend to support the motion which I am informed Mr. McArthur, with its permission, will table at an early period of the next session of Parliament.

I have not deemed it wise to anticipate any matter of complaint that may be brought against this Government since my connection with it. Your Lordship will be duly informed that certain protests have been entered against the decisions of the Supreme Court in its Admiralty jurisdiction, and it will be, I conceive, quite sufficient to make any explanation when invited to do so.

In conclusion, permit me, my Lord, to draw your attention to an enclosure marked A, in which you will see it is insinuated the Government have, in the case of 'Archibald Watson,' connived at a miscarriage of justice. The writer is a person in the pay or favour of Her Majesty's Consul, and has frequently, in the public press of the Colonies, quoted whole sentences of my despatches to Mr. March, not forgetting inverted commas to show they were quotations.

Watson was arrested at the instance of Captain Douglas, and in the absence of Her Majesty's ship 'Cossack,' as were all the other men accused. Mr. Consul March would not address the Government

excepting at caprice. When Watson was arrested, Her Majesty's Consul was informed as per Enclosure (4). His reply is also enclosed (5). Eight days afterwards he acknowledges receipt of mine of the 27th again (6). He did not receive any communication from me upon the 28th, and although he knew Watson was admitted to bail, desires he may remain in charge of the authorities. This capriciousness and the alteration of a date are very characteristic of Mr. March's idiosyncrasies.

Archibald Watson was arrested by a Fijian constable, and in due time brought before the Inferior and Supreme Courts, but Mr. March would not lay any information against him lest he should, by so doing, recognize the "authorities," and Watson was discharged upon his own recognizances until Captain Douglas returned. "Clancy" was an escaped prisoner, and stood upon a very different footing.

The circumstances attending Watson's departure from Fiji by consent of Her Majesty's Consul, are shown in the affidavits annexed (7 and 8), and will, I hope, acquit this Government of any neglect.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) JOHN V. S. THURSTON,
Chief Secretary and Minister for Foreign Relations.

Enclosure 1 in No. 7.

SPEECH OF MR. MCARTHUR AS REPORTED IN THE 'TIMES.'

It appears that, on the 6th December, Mr. March, Her Majesty's Consul at Fiji, paid a visit to the 'Peri' in the harbour of Levuka. The Solomon Island natives were kept in close confinement below, on the ground that during the voyage they had killed five of the crew; thus showing that the outrages in the Pacific are now frequently leading to murderous acts of retaliation. Mr. March, after ascertaining that the Captain was on board, was in the act of stepping on the deck, when one of the men presented a loaded revolver at his breast, threatening to shoot him. Mr. March could obtain no explanation of this outrageous conduct. He was insulted in terms which our correspondent describes as "most gross; and as he saw "that the man, although not drunk, was under the influence of drink, and expecting every moment to be shot, "he re-embarked in his boat and went ashore." Two days afterwards a meeting of about 200 British residents was held for the purpose of giving expression to the public feeling which the outrage had excited. The view of the matter which was taken by these persons is best expressed in the resolution which they unanimously adopted: "That this meeting has arrived at the conclusion from the information laid before it, "and the admissions of Mr. Gough, that Her Majesty's representative and the British flag have been grossly "and unwarrantably insulted on board the 'Peri,' and that the man who did so has been clearly proved to "have been under the instructions of the so-called Fijian Government. That the meeting also conveys to "Mr. March their thorough approval of his conduct under the circumstances, and their willingness, if he "should call upon them, to see ample satisfaction given him in this matter." There appears to be no doubt that the natives on board the 'Peri' had been kidnapped; that they rose against their captors with the result already stated, and that when brought to Fiji, "they were kept closely packed together in the dark "hold of the 'Peri' by the so-called Government of King Cakobau, where one of them had committed suicide by dashing out his brains against the side of the vessel." What is known of the subsequent history of the 'Peri' justifies the belief that they afterwards succeeded in killing their guards and making their escape with the vessel until the latter was picked up by Her Majesty's ship 'Basilisk.'

Such is the state of things at present in relation to the slave trade in Polynesia. There is nothing which I can say on the subject—indeed, nothing which has been said upon it—that comes up to the reality described by Mr. Consul March, of Fiji, whose admirable reports picture a state of society as horrible as any existing upon the face of the earth; and it is lamentable to think that that brave man has been left alone to fight a host of unscrupulous adventurers who are doing their utmost to reduce the natives of Polynesia to the condition of slaves. And yet Her Majesty's Government, after trying to shift responsibility to the shoulders of New South Wales, and saddle expense upon them—a policy unworthy of a great country like Great Britain—coolly looks on, and, for the sake of saving a few thousand pounds, sacrifices the interests of commerce, liberty, civilization, and Christianity in those islands of the Pacific. This was not the policy pursued in former days, when England stood forward as the friend of the oppressed, and spent millions of money in putting down the slave trade. It was not the pounds-shillings-and-pence consideration that prompted her to keep a squadron on the coast of Africa for many years in promoting the same object, and to pay 20,000,000*l.* for the emancipation of the slaves in our West Indian Colonies.

(A.)

EXTRACT from the AUCKLAND 'SOUTHERN CROSS,' NEW ZEALAND.

It will be remembered that Captain Douglas, of Her Majesty's ship 'Cossack,' seized the 'Carl' brig for slaving, and placed the crew under arrest. The men were confined on board the 'Cossack,' and one of their number, named Clancy, made good his escape during the middle watch. This flight from justice was accomplished by means of a boat which came alongside the 'Cossack' in the darkness, in accordance with a preconcerted arrangement. This man Clancy, however, was captured at the Rewa by the Fijian authorities, and was dispatched to Sydney, as a passenger, in the 'Quickstep,' which left Levuka on July 19. Archibald Watson, for whose arrest a warrant had been issued from the 'Cossack,' as well as for that of

Clancy, and placed in the hands of the Government, was arrested a few days after the departure of the 'Cossack' by Constable Harding. He was incarcerated in the common gaol for some days, and, after appearing before the magistrates on a charge of murder, was released upon bail. On July 16 Watson appeared at the Supreme Court before two white Judges and the native Judge Marika, when his own bail of 200*l.* was accepted to answer in Sydney a charge of murder and kidnapping upon the high seas, instead of, as heretofore, three sureties each of that amount, beyond his own responsibility in a like sum. Upon the face of it, this will, in all probability, lead to a gross miscarriage of justice, for Watson is charged with a similar offence to that of Clancy, and yet the latter is sent a close prisoner to Sydney, while the former is allowed his liberty upon his own personal responsibility. Captain Randolph, of the 'Rifle' schooner, arrived in Levuka Harbour on July 19, and he reports that the friends of the captured aboriginals who, it is alleged, were stolen from their homes by the men of the 'Carl,' are grievously bemoaning their absence.

Enclosure 2 in No. 7.

REX *v.* PECKHAM.

SUPREME COURT.—CRIMINAL SITTINGS.

Wednesday, October 9.

(Before their Honours Mr. JUSTICE FORWOOD and the NATIVE JUDGE RATU MARIKA.)

William Peckham, planter, of Taviuni, was arraigned for alleged breaches of the "Labour Act," in having landed and worked certain Tokalau people by the 'Frolic,' in July last, without their having been first passed by the proper officers of the Government. There were three other informations against the prisoner for assault and false imprisonment of Dinduko, Kariss, and Tikovau (three of the Tokalau immigrants), respectively.

Mr. Burt, K.A., prosecuted. Mr. Solomon defended the prisoner, and claimed time to plead to the first information, which the Bench granted, and the prisoner then pleaded "not guilty" to the other three charges. The Crown elected to proceed with the assault and false imprisonment of Dinduko.

The jury having been empanelled, Mr. Burt opened the case. He said they were aware of the many abuses which had crept into the labour traffic, to the injury of the reputation of the country, and of those planters who honestly and fairly obtained their labourers, and would lend no countenance to the sea-wolves and pirates who first stole Islanders from their native homes, and then palmed them off with lies and further fraud. Since the Constitution was established here, the Government had determined to put a stop to this kind of thing by every means in their power. Several stringent Acts for the regulation of the Labour Trade, and for the protection of the emigrants when here, had been passed, and it was to the advantage of employers themselves that they should see these statutes obeyed; because if they did not, not only would the importation of labour be stopped altogether by the combined action of this Government and of England, but labour-vessels would be viewed with such a dread in the islands at which labourers were sought, that soon none would be obtained without fraud and murder, and resulting feelings of revenge accompanying those who came here. In the present case it appeared that the Tokalau man, Dinduko, and his companions, including men, women, and children, to the number of twelve, were kidnapped by the English vessel 'Frolic,' and secretly carried to the prisoner's plantation, where they were landed, worked, and retained, until some information having reached the Government (unfortunately after the vessel had escaped to New Caledonia), Mr. Inspector Harding was sent down and arrested the prisoner, and brought these poor people on to Levuka. He was bound to say that, excepting the fact that the prisoner had taken over these labourers from the master of the 'Frolic' without the proper licences, it did not appear that he knew anything of the cruel way in which they were obtained, and they had not, as far as he knew, complained of ill-usage on the plantation. And as the prisoner had always borne the character here of being a straightforward and honourable man, the Government only desired to vindicate the law, and not to carry the prisoner's punishment to an extreme, as he might possibly have been misled, and recent politics in his district might have caused some misunderstanding as to his liability to the law. Still it was clear that forcing these men to labour against their will was an assault and false imprisonment; and however the prisoner might be affected by the Labour Act, he, like others, could be reached in this way, unless, as he (Mr. Burt) sincerely hoped, the prisoner could succeed in showing that these labourers had consented to his action in regard to them.

He called the Tukalow man Kariss, and examined him through a countrywoman named Mary (who had been residing here for several years, and evidently spoke the language of the witness and Fijian fluently, and showed great intelligence in conveying both questions and answers, as, indeed, in a lesser degree, did the witness himself).

Mr. Wm. Scott, M.P., acted as Fijian interpreter.

At the suggestion of the jury a Tukalau boy, Dick, who knew some English, was sent for to check the interpretation of the woman.

An elderly Tukalau sailor, named Bob, was also at first called into requisition; but, with consent of all parties, was afterwards dispensed with, they being satisfied the woman, Mary, was quite equal to the position.

The witness was carefully cautioned, and declared he would tell the truth.

He deposed that they had gone on board the 'Frolic' to trade at Tamana (one of the Line Islands), when they were seized and handcuffed, and thrust down the hold. All came together, and were got in the same way. Did not first come to Levuka. Were taken to Taviuni, to Mr. Peckham's plantation. Two white men took them ashore. When they landed, saw prisoner (Peckham), who showed them into the cook-

house, and fastened them in. This was after dark. Prisoner made signs to them not to speak, or make a noise. After being in the cook-house for some time, they were called one by one on to a verandah, and then sent back. Before daylight were called out to go to work—drying cotton; all but one, who was left to cook, and he afterwards came too. Told Mr. Peckham some were hungry and sick; that Dinduko was sick, and had better rest—(on being questioned as to how this was conveyed, it seems that the Tukalau expression for sick was like the Fijian, "Sa mate")—but Peckham would not hear of it. Ordered them all to work, and they went, being afraid. He struck those who lagged with a rope tied to a stick, and having several small ropes at the end. At dark they were called in, and then were sent to a different place, to the "yam-house," and made to put up their own bed places. Did not want to come to Fiji. Went to work because prisoner told them to go to work. Saw Dinduko struck by prisoner, and several others. All were treated alike, sick or well. They were struck for not working better.

Cross-examined: The cook-house to which they were taken had a door. Knew a man named Cibelli. Told him they wanted to get to their own land. First spoke to Cibelli; not he to them. He did not tell them they had only to say they were made fast to get back to their native land. No one told him to say here that he first went to Taviuni. Saw one of his countrymen at prisoner's, when he first went there. Told them how they were brought to Fiji. They recommended them to get to Levuka, and tell the Consul. Knows two women named Katchelili and Katebelib. Told these women how they were stolen. The women asked them if they would serve Peckham. Some said "All right." No time was mentioned. No one asked them how they came, except their own countrymen. Heard at the gaol there would be an inquiry. Have had conversations among themselves, but not with others. All were of one mind—they wished to go back.

To the Bench.—They were two moons at Taviuna, and one moon in Levuka.

Dinduko was called, but as he appeared devoid of sufficient intelligence, the Judge refused his evidence.

Tikoban, a female, was duly cautioned, and declared she would tell the truth. Examined through the interpreter, she corroborated the evidence of Kariss in the main, though she was evidently more stolid. She added that when Sunday came, they were tabooed from leaving the place. They did not leave the plantation, because they were afraid of prisoner, who told them if they ran away they would be severely beaten. They thought he was not aware of the circumstances under which they came to Fiji. She was not beat, as she was industrious and worked well, but saw Dinduko beaten by Peckham on the first day.

Thursday, October 10.

James Harding, Inspector of Police, proved that he went to prisoner's plantation, and asked to see the Tokalau people by the 'Frolic.' When Peckham asked him how he knew there were any people there from the 'Frolic,' witness said, "We won't discuss that; but I want to see your last lot of Kanakas." He was then shown them, and after questioning several through an interpreter, found they had been kidnapped. Prisoner said he knew nothing of that, and was astonished to hear of it, and then gave witness every facility. Got away the people by the 'Vivid,' Government cutter. They nearly rushed the boat in their anxiety to get away. Arrested prisoner under orders from the Minister of Native Affairs, and charged him at nearest Warden's Court with breach of the "Labour Act." He pleaded guilty.

On cross-examination, witness said he had with him no warrant, but was in uniform, and armed with regulation weapons. Arrested prisoner on the statement of the labourers that they had been kidnapped, and because prisoner could show no agreement with them or Government licence.

Mr Solomon (to witness): Do you know, Sir, you acted illegally in arresting prisoner without a warrant?

Mr. Justice Forwood: The Inspector acted quite right. He would have neglected his duty if, having a knowledge of the kidnapping by the 'Frolic,' he had found the defendant with the stolen persons under duress without licence or other authority, and had failed to arrest him on the spot.

Mr. Solomon addressed the jury at great length, and in the course of his address said that the late Attorney-General, Mr. Hamilton, had promised him only on Saturday last to withdraw the prosecution, and enter a nolle prosequi, and consequently the defendant had allowed witness to leave town. He was therefore now at a great disadvantage, as the present adviser of the Crown had chosen to ignore the act of his predecessor.

The Judge asked if Mr. Solomon asserted that the late Attorney-General had on Saturday, the 5th instant, agreed to enter a nolle prosequi?

Mr. Solomon: Yes, your Honour, and given me to understand the matter would be dropped.

His Honour immediately sent a message to the Chief Secretary, who enclosed the late Attorney-General's letter of resignation, dated on Friday the 4th, and stated that he (the Chief Secretary) knew nothing of any nolle prosequi.

Mr. Burt said he had been instructed for the Crown after Mr. Hamilton's resignation. Had heard nothing of any such promise as Mr. Solomon averred had been given, and to show that the Crown was no party to it, produced a letter dated Saturday, the 5th, from the late Attorney-General to the Minister of Native Affairs, asking further instructions, and a copy of that Minister's reply, directing the vindication of the law.

His Honour said it was plain that the Government were acting in good faith, and the late Attorney-General had no authority on the 5th to make any official arrangement of the kind alleged. He, the Judge, would not stop the trial at that stage, unless the Crown advisers consented.

Mr. Burt declined to do so; it might be that the late Attorney-General felt some difficulty as to the indictment under the "Labour Act," as that they were now dealing with had been filed some days after the other. And he (Mr. Burt) had had to amend it, and to file two others to guard against any miscarriage of justice. With the evidence before him, he considered the Crown was bound to press the charge.

Mr. Solomon then called Joseph Madden, who deposed that he was master of defendant's plantation vessel which traded to and from Levuka. Knew the plantation well, and was sometimes there for weeks together; knew the cook-house; never saw any door to it. (This door had been specially referred to by the witnesses.) He must have known it had there been one.

On cross-examination he said there were other buildings with doors. When these Tokalau people arrived,

FIJI ISLANDS.

was not at the plantation. Had seen them working there since. Never saw them beat. Never saw prisoner use a stick or a whip. Did not know what a cat-o'-nine-tails was. Had seen prisoner with a rope on the end of a stick having strands in the lash. The prisoner used to walk about with it in his hand. Never saw him strike the Tokalau people with it, but had seen him strike others.

Ben, a Rotuman sailor, knew the cook-house. It had no door.

Tikoban was recalled, and said she was maimed in her native country. Her husband had two wives, and put her away long before she was kidnapped. He had not sent her here to be rid of her.

The other Takolau people were brought in, but were not examined. It was stated that a woman and child were very ill.

Mr. Solomon summed up his evidence, contending he had broken down the credibility of the Tokalau witnesses, and that the whole effair was a concoction between these savages to get back to their own islands, as they were tired of work, and had been told they had only to swear they had been kidnapped to be returned to their homes. His client had no doubt hired these people outside the Regulations, not knowing at the time anything of the late Labour Act, which was only passed in July, but had retained them with their own verbal assent, and had fed and kept them well.

Mr. Burt, in reply, said he had not known, when he opened the case, anything about the cat-o'nine-tails, for which there did not appear any need, as magistrates lived near the prisoner. He portrayed forcibly the evils of the system, and the necessity there existed to throw around these unfortunates the protection of the law.

Mr. Justice Forwood summed up. The prisoner was indicted for assault and false imprisonment of Dinduko only, and although evidence was given of assault and restraint upon others as well as him, yet the information was sufficient for substantial justice. Prisoner was not charged with kidnapping, or being accessory to it, and it may be he did not know of its having taken place, nor was he at present being tried under the "Labour Act." There was, however, some necessity for going into these matters, to which he would presently revert. He wished to call special attention to the law on the subject of false imprisonment, for it would only be by the intelligent application, by the jury, of the evidence to the law in this case, that they would arrive at a just verdict. They must begin by realizing the fact that all men coming into Fiji, not in legal custody, were free—free to come, and free to go, where and when they pleased,—as in England, in the old days, when negro slaves became free men as soon as they touched its shore. He was proud to say this was a leading principle of our Constitution here. Starting then with this, it followed that here, as in England, any unlawful restraint put upon a man's liberty was a crime. It has been urged at the Bar that it was only a civil injury, but, according to the highest authorities, "besides the private satis-"faction given to the individual by action, the law demanded public vengeance for the breach of the King's "peace, and the infringement of the good order of society." According to Sir William Russell and other high authorities, "every confinement of the person whether in a common prison or a private house, or "a forceable detaining in the streets, is a false imprisonment." Judge Coleridge had said "a prison may "have its boundary large or narrow, visible and tangible, or, though real, still in the conception only, it may "be moveable, or fixed, but a boundary it must have—the party must be prevented from leaving that place, "within the ambit of which the party imprisoning him would confine him;" and Sir John Pattison laid it down, "in general, if one man compels another to stay in any given place against his will, he imprisons that other "just as much as if he locked him up in a room." Now the defendant must either show that he did not imprison, or he must justify. All the prosecutor has to do is to prove the imprisonment—the defendant must show that it was lawful. He (Judge Forwood) was not going to lay it down from the Bench that, considering the state of this country, and the kind of persons these foreign labourers were, that a planter had not to some extent the right to restrain them, and even to correct them, where they had entered his service legally and properly; restraint might be necessary not only for the safety of others, but for that of the labourers themselves—for the general good government of the plantation and its neighbourhood.

These unfortunates were very much in the light of apprentices, or of persons with afflicted intellects and naturally vicious. It was a good answer to an alleged battery, that it was merely a proper correction by one who in law stood in loco parentis, or held temporary authority, but even then the correction must be reasonable and moderate, and be inflicted with the nicest judgment, as every excess was at a risk, and it would be much better in general to seek the aid of a magistrate. If, however, the labourers were illegally come by, nothing would justify any assault or restraint, as the employer was an aggressor from the first, and the whole sophistry of argument built on the supposed necessity for restraint and correction to which he had alluded must perforce fall. However these foreign labourers were got here, it behoved those who brought them, and especially who retained them with a view to profit by their labour, to treat them well, to feed them, to house them, to look to their health, to reward their exertions, and to use them kindly. They were chargeable with their protection, and were not entitled to keep them under continual dread of the whip. Taking for the moment the evidence to be reliable, how was any justification made out? The defence was based on the delusion that prisoner's ignorance of the "Labour Act" excused his taking the transfer of these men from the 'Frolic' without observing the Regulations. That was, on the contrary, aggravation of the offence, for it was only under a licence given pursuant to the Act upon the stringent conditions therein required for the protection of the labourers and of society, that the prisoner could have any right *at all* to coerce these people to work for him without their own *special* consent—and they were never in a position whilst with prisoner to give that consent. They were under duress—they had no one to explain the effect of their agreement, and had no such protection as the law would require for them under the circumstances, to make their consent binding. It might well be that the prisoner was ignorant of the Labour Acts passed in last Session, but he (the Judge) could not suppose that a large planter, an intelligent man, owning a vessel in constant communication with Levuka, did not in the middle of this year know of the "Labour Act" passed in the Session of 1871, and which Act contained repressive clauses that, by some oversight, had been omitted from the recent Act. The law the prisoner *must* have known of was, therefore, more stringent than that of which he professed ignorance. The Bench might have thought him misled, if he could have shown that these labourers had been passed according to the the old system by the Consul of his country. Nothing of the sort was shown, and the jury would, therefore, see that it came to this—

Was there sufficient evidence or not of a false imprisonment? (which, ipso facto, included an assault), and if not, was there sufficient evidence even of an assault not permitted by the law? Their answers might be said to rest on the unsworn statements of the two Tokalau witnesses, the man Kariss and the woman Tikoban, though it did not altogether, for some of their statements had been, he thought, remarkably corroborated by the white witnesses. He thought the evidence was in this case peculiarly subject to the estimate of the jury, and he was glad to see they had given it the most patient attention. He (the Judge) did not wish to infringe upon their province, and, therefore, they would consider what he might say with regard to the evidence as rather intended to assist than to direct them. It was his impression that the statements of the Tokalau witnesses were faithfully interpreted by the female, Mary. Her ready intelligence and open earnest manner struck him most forcibly. He thought the jury agreed with him in this. The boy Dick also corroborated her when appealed to. Mr. Scott, who rendered her Fijian into English, was of course beyond question. He thought the evidence of Kariss more reliable than that of Tikoban. He seemed to have more natural intelligence, and gave his answers more readily. The woman seemed duller, and varied now and then in her answers. The jury, might, however, think she was therefore less likely to concoct lies as she went on. They were, no doubt, at liberty to suppose, as had been urged by the prisoner's counsel, that the two had agreed upon one story, and it was true that their evidence had not the sanctity of religious obligation. He (the Judge) might, on this subject, say that he hoped another Session would not pass without Legislative enactment with regard not only to the evidence of those natives, but oaths generally. For his own part, he disagreed with the present system altogether, for divers reasons. Even with many Christians, the mere kissing of a book, which might possibly contain much misprint, after a few garbled words from the officer of the Court, lent no additional weight to the inward obligation to tell the truth. A declaration, seriously and solemnly made, to tell the truth only, would, he thought, have in general much greater weight on a witness's conscience, and be more impressive. Well, the jury would have to determine here, whether these witnesses were sufficiently impressed with the obligation to tell the truth. The demeanour of a witness, the mode in which his statement withstood cross-examination, its general consistency, and the way in which it hung together, were, he thought, more reliable elements by which to test its truth, than if sworn to in any imaginable fashion. It may be that there was a concocted tale got up, as the prisoner's counsel had suggested, but it would take very great cunning, intelligence, and good memory even for a white man to go through a long examination, without falsehood, if it existed, becoming apparent. His Honour then read through the whole of his notes of the evidence, and carefully pointed out any discrepancies, and in what manner he thought it was affected or corroborated by the white witnesses, and the surrounding circumstances, and concluded by saying: If they thought the defendant had acted innocently throughout, and had put no restraint upon Dinduko's free action, but had, for his benefit and protection, merely retained him without ill-treatment, till he could be more legitimately placed, they might acquit the prisoner; but, if they considered any improper duress had been put upon him, there seems to have been no justification put forward which the law could accept.

The jury retired, and after about twenty-five minutes came into Court with a verdict of guilty.

Upon being asked if he had anything to say why sentence should not be passed?

Mr. Solomon urged that prisoner had had nothing to do with any piratical proceedings of the 'Frolic'; that he had been persuaded that the master of that vessel had come on to Taviuni, as he could not get the usual passage money in Levuka, and thought the labourers came willingly. His client was unacquainted with the forms required by the "Labour Act," and had unwittingly infringed it, and, as had been said, he had been debarred from calling witnesses, who would have given a different colour to the affair.

His Honour asked what they could have proved. Could they have shown there had been proper agreements by these people to work for the prisoner?

Mr. Solomon: No; but that they were not ill-treated.

His Honour inquired if the Crown intended to proceed with the other informations.

Mr. Burt would now undertake, with permission of the Bench, to enter a nolle prosequi, or withdraw them.

Mr. Justice Forwood, addressing the prisoner, said: William Peckham, although you have escaped indictment for being accessory to kidnapping and direct breach of the Labour Law, yet I cannot shut my eyes to the fact that, in receiving these Tokalau people as you did, you must have known you were not only evading the law, but affording cover to any irregularity of which the master of the 'Frolic' might have been guilty. You, at least, received those people without that caution which any reasonable man must be expected to employ on such an occasion, and recklessly retained them, looking only to your own profit. I might have conceded that you were to some slight extent, though not wholly, excused if you had even taken care to ascertain that these people had been passed by your Consul. But you seem to have taken no precaution whatever. Though you seem to have been severe, you do not appear to have acted cruelly; the people seem generally to have been well fed and well housed. You did not give the police much opposition or trouble, and it might be that you were imposed upon by the 'Frolic's' people. I will give you the benefit of all this, though I cannot suppose that an experienced planter like you are, could be unaware that he was running a great risk in entering into a transaction so questionable. Considering the present state of gaol accommodation in this country, and your previous character and position, I will not order your imprisonment in the common gaol, but yet I feel it my duty to impose upon you such a punishment as will deter others from similar offences, and which, when taken in addition to what has already befallen you, will be adequate to the offence of which you have been guilty. The sentence of the Court is that you pay a fine to His Majesty of 150*l.*, or 750 dollars, and be held in custody until this fine be paid. (The Court was crowded, and much interest seemed to have been felt in the result.)

Application was made by the Sheriff for directions as to the disposal of the Tokalau people, and Mr. Justice Forwood directed him to apply to the Chief Justice as Chancellor, and meantime to give them such protection as they had been afforded prior to the trial.

Enclosure 3 in No. 7.

Mr. Hennings to Consul March.

Native Affairs Office, Levuka, Fiji,
April 23, 1872.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that, at 2 o'clock this afternoon, I shall be prepared to go on board the British ship 'Carl,' for the purpose of interrogating, with the aid of efficient interpreters, the labourers on board, and which are to be engaged to planters in Fiji.

But as the vessel cleared from this port with your instructions, and has, moreover, entered into certain bonds, and as you have hitherto visited all vessels so cleared from the British Consulate, and examined all labourers so brought, I now respectfully invite your company on board the brig 'Carl,' so as to satisfy yourself how, and for what period, the immigrants have been engaged.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) F. W. HENNINGS,
Minister for Native Affairs.

Consul March to Mr. Hennings.

Fiji and Tonga, Ovalau,
April 23, 1872.

Dear Sir,

I am extremely obliged for your invitation just received (now). I have been on board the 'Carl,' and done the needful, so there is no occasion for my going again, especially as the weather is bad, and I am suffering from a bad foot.

With the result of my examination of the natives, and the proceedings I intend adopting in consequence, I had the pleasure of acquainting you this morning.

If there is anything I can do, compatibly with my duty, to further the interests of the owner whom you represent, pray let me know.

Yours, &c.,
(Signed) EDWARD MARCH.

Memorandum.—Asked me to tell the employers to call upon him with the labourers engaged. This has been told to every planter entering into an engagement with the labourers for brig 'Carl.'

5 *o'clock, April* 23, 1872.—Returned from the brig 'Carl.'

F. W. H.

United States' Consular Agency, Levuka, Ovalau, Fiji,
April 24, 1872.

On this day, personally appeared before me, ten Tankalau men and women, Line Islands, whose names are hereunto written, and did acknowledge, clearly understanding interrogations which I put unto them, that they had engaged to labour with James T. Proctor, resident at Bar, coast Fiji, for the term of three years from date.

Names.—Tan, Tabon, Kan we, Vonrow, Tanna, Teverana, Kamagi, Tamua, Tona, Tirigando.

Enclosure 4 in No. 7.

Mr. Thurston to Consul March.

Chief Secretary's Office,
June 27, 1872.

Sir,

I have to inform you that, in accordance with the request of Captain Douglas, of Her Majesty's ship 'Cossack,' a warrant was granted for the arrest of Archibald Watson, charged with certain crimes and misdemeanours upon the high seas, on board the brig 'Carl.'

The accused was arrested last night, and is now in Tologa Gaol. It would appear that he intended to surrender voluntarily to-day.

His friends are anxious that he should be admitted to bail; and I beg to invite an early expression of your opinion or desires upon the subject.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN B. THURSTON,
Chief Secretary.

P.S—You will be good enough to understand bail could not be refused by mere desire upon your part, but you may show cause, if possible, why it should be; and it would meet the most careful consideration of the Court.

J. B. T.

Enclosure 5 in No. 7.

CONSUL MARCH to Mr. THURSTON.

SIR, Ovalau, June, 27, 1872.

In view of the statement contained in your letter, which I have just received, I see no objection to A. Watson being admitted to bail.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) EDWARD MARCH.

Enclosure 6 in No. 7.

CONSUL MARCH to Mr. THURSTON.

SIR, Ovalau, July 5, 1872.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo,* and to request that, until I have an opportunity of sending Archibald Watson to Sydney, and thus giving effect to the warrant issued against him, he may remain in the charge of the Fijian authorities.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) EDWARD MARCH.

Enclosure 7 in No. 7.

DEPOSITION OF CHARLES TRUSCOTT.

Kingdom of Fiji, to wit,

I, Charles Truscott, of Levuka, in the Kingdom of Fiji, Solicitor and Advocate of the Supreme Court of the said Kingdom, make oath, and say—

1. That on the 27th day of June last past, was retained by James Stewart Butters, Esq., the legal appointed attorney of Mr. Archibald Watson, of Levuka, gentleman, to defend the said Archibald Watson, on a charge of piracy made against him in connection with the brig 'Carl,' and under which charge he was then in the custody of the police authorities of Levuka.

2. That I applied the same day to the Judges of the Supreme Court of this Kingdom, that the said Archibald Watson should be admitted to bail; and he was, in consequence of such application, admitted to bail on his own recognizances, and two sureties, to appear on the 16th day of July following, to answer and plead to any information or indictment that might be preferred against him with respect to such charge.

3. That on the said 16th day of July (now instant), the said Archibald Watson surrendered, as required his said bail, before the Judges of the Supreme Court of this Kingdom, at the fixed criminal sittings.

4. That the Attorney-General stated, that no information had been lodged against the said Archibald Watson, and he was not instructed to apply for his further detention on bail.

5. That I, as his advocate, applied for his discharge, and that the Judges of the said Court ordered that he be discharged from his bail, on entering into his own recognizances of 1,000 dollars to appear again if called upon.

6. That I, on the 12th day of July instant, waited on, and had an interview with, Edward Bernard March, Esq., Her Britannic Majesty's Consul for Fiji, with reference to this case.

7. That it was then arranged that I should prepare an affidavit, to be made by Mr. Watson, setting out all the facts which he knew in connection with this case; and it was also agreed that I should produce said Archibald Watson before Mr. March, to be sworn to such affidavit.

8. That I accordingly prepared such affidavit, a copy of which is hereunto annexed, marked "A."

9. That on the 15th day of July last, I proceeded, by appointment, to the British Consulate in Levuka, accompanied by the said Archibald Watson, and saw Mr. March, the Consul; that I read such affidavit over to them, and Mr. Watson said it was correct; but before it was signed or sworn to, Mr. March intimated to me that he wished to speak to Watson privately; and I retired, leaving the affidavit in the office at the Consulate.

10. That shortly afterwards I saw Mr. Watson, who informed me that the Consul had not sworn him to the affidavit, and had not said to him anything further about it, but that both Mr. and Mrs. March had been quarrelling with him about another matter.

11. I further say, that I promised Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, on Mr. Watson's behalf, that he should go up to Sydney, and give evidence with reference to the "'Carl' case," and was prepared with sureties, and to enter into bail for his appearance there: but that, after what took place at the Consulate on the day named, Mr. Watson did not conceive it his duty to attend before the Consul again.

(Sgned) CHARLES TRUSCOTT.

Taken and sworn before me, this 27th day of August, 1872.
(Signed) W. J. THOMAS, a Commissioner of Supreme Court for taking affidavits.

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* *Sic.* Should be 27th ultimo.

Fiji Islands.

Enclosure 8 in No. 7.

Deposition of Archibald Watson.

(A.)

I, Archibald Watson, at present residing in Levuka, in the Kingdom of Fiji, Gentleman, make oath and say—

1. That on the 21st day of December last, I proceeded as a passenger in the brigantine 'Carl' to Tanna, and other islands in the South Seas.

2. That at the time I so took my passage I was in very bad health in Levuka, and I proceeded on this trip on the sole recommendation of my medical adviser, Dr. W. Brown, of Levuka, and with a view only of being restored to health.

3. That I had no interest, directly or indirectly, in the charter of the said ship 'Carl,' nor was I connected with the interests of the owners or charterers of the vessel in any way whatever.

4. The reason of my going in this particular vessel was, that I was well acquainted with the then captain of the 'Carl,' he being formerly the mate of the barque 'Springbok,' in which ship I first came to Fiji.

5. We were absent on the voyage about five months, and during that time we called at many of the islands in the New Hebrides, and at Api took Dr. J. P. Murray on board.

6. From the different islands we brought away 101 men, and brought to Fiji 100 men, one of the men having died on board of bronchitis.

7. I never went on shore in search of men, nor did I in any way entice men to come on board, nor did I take any part whatever in the obtaining of the labour.

8. I did see some of the labour brought on board, and against their will, but I never saw any personal injury inflicted on the men.

9. I did see a man on board who was wounded with what I believe a pistol shot, but the man was well attended to, and recovered in a fortnight. He is now alive in Mokogai in Figi.

10. I heard of another man being wounded, and I went and saw him struggling in the water. I called to the crew to get him out of the water, and I myself went to assist. He was got on board and taken aft, and I never saw the man afterwards. I heard he was thrown overboard.

11. I never myself aided in any violence being committed, and did my best to protect the natives when they were on board the ship.

12. The men were well cared for in the ship, and they improved much in condition.

13. There are some of the men now on Mokogai who know I used my endeavours on their behalf.

This is the exhibit marked (A) referred to in the within affidavit of Charles Truscott, sworn before me this 27th day of August, 1872.

(Signed) W. J. Thomas, a Commissioner of Affidavits, Supreme Court.

Deposition of James Stewart Butters.

Kingdom of Fiji, to wit,

I, James Stewart Butters, of Levuka, in the Kingdom of Fiji, Gentleman, make oath and say—

1. That I am the appointed attorney of Mr. Archibald Watson, formerly of Levuka aforesaid.

2. That on the brig 'Carl' being seized by Her Majesty's ship of war 'Cossack,' I believe about the latter end of May last, I inquired of Watson if he was in any way implicated in the affair, and Watson said "No." I also asked him if he had received a notice from Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, Mr. March, to appear as a witness, and he replied that he had not.

3. That about this time Watson left Levuka for a few days on business.

4. That on his return I sent him on board the 'Cossack' to ascertain if he was required. He was on board about an hour, but Captain Douglas being engaged with the Consul, he came off without seeing him.

5. That Watson again went away for a few days, and that in the meantime the 'Cossack' left Levuka, but Captain Douglas had sent instructions to the Fijian Government, that Watson should be apprehended.

6. That on Watson being arrested, Mr. Berry, a planter on the Ba Coast, and myself went bail for his appearance at the next sittings of the Criminal Court of Fiji, to answer any charge that might be preferred against him, that he answered by his bail, but no charge whatever was brought against him.

7. That I had an interview with Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, Mr. March, stated that he visited Watson to give his evidence in an affidavit, and desired that he might go to Sydney to give evidence if necessary.

8. That I instructed Mr. Truscott, solicitor, to examine Watson and prepare such affidavit, and I also undertook to send Watson to the Consulate, and to find sureties for his appearance in Sydney, and such sureties were ready to enter into the usual recognizances.

9. That I remember Mr. Watson going to the Consulate on or about the 15th of July last, with Mr. Truscott, and I called at the time I met Mrs. March at the gate and she stated, "I have been giving Mr. "Watson a good bullying about my girl." I then passed into Mr. March's office and saw Watson there. The Consul informed me that he was talking with Watson on a private matter, and I at once left.

10. That I afterwards saw Watson, who said that he had been bullied by Mr. March, and sent away from the Consulate without signing or swearing the affidavit, or doing anything in the matter of the 'Carl.'

11. That I presumed from that fact that he was not wanted further by the Consul, and that as Watson had not been in good health for a long time past, I suggested to him the desirability of his taking the advantage of a colder climate, and of being with his friends.

12. That Mr. Watson left Luvuka shortly afterwards, by the 'Prima Donna,' for Auckland, and can now be most probably found with his friends in the colonies.

(Signed) JAS. S. BUTTERS.

Taken and sworn before me this 27th day of August, 1872.
(Signed) W. J. THOMAS, a Commissioner to administer affidavits in the Supreme Court of Fiji.

Enclosure No. 8.

Mr. THURSTON to EARL GRANVILLE.

Department of Foreign Relations, Levuka, Fiji,
December 16, 1872.

MY LORD,

I had the honour, upon the 19th of October last, to address your Lordship upon Fijian affairs, in connection with the debate in the English House of Commons upon the 25th of June last, and, towards the close of my Despatch, urged that Her Majesty's Government would speedily decide whether King Thakobau, his Ministers and people, were to be unobstructed in the great progress they have already made in the establishment of a Constitutional Government, or whether, actuated by general national policy, or any particular theory as to the interests of humanity and civilization in the Pacific, Her Majesty's Government intend to support the motion which, I am informed, Mr. McArthur, with its permission, will table at an early period of the next session of Parliament.

My object in thus writing was to procure that definite and early reply which, I apprehend, in view of the injury to which this Government is continually subjected by persons of British extraction, Her Majesty's Government cannot hesitate to give.

The difficulties and anxieties, to which I also drew your Lordship's attention, are now likely to be increased by the publication of a Circular Despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governors of the Australian Colonies (Enclosure A), and which has had the effect of prejudicing, or perhaps destroying, the confidence and respect this Government has gained in the Colonies, and of inducing in this country white settlers to offer armed (though unsuccessful) resistance to the constituted authorities. In one instance the King's officers have been opposed by armed settlers, who, with their Tanna men, and other foreign labourers, carried in their front the British ensign. By the exercise of firm but temperate power no collision took place, and the authorities remained in the possession of the offices, the duties of which they have sworn to execute. The construction put (rightly or wrongly) upon the Circular Despatch, in the Australian Colonies (see Enclosure 2), as well as here, cannot but lead to an attempt being made by those Europeans who would reduce the Fijians to serfdom, to subvert the King's Government, and to a determined resistance, on the part of the natives, for the protection of their rights and liberties.

I have it, therefore, in command to enter the most earnest and solemn protest upon the part of His Majesty the King of Fiji against the said Circular Despatch in so far as the following paragraph is concerned: "They" (the Law Officers of the Crown) "are further of opinion that Her Majesty's Government "may interfere with the acts and engagements of British subjects within Fiji." The meaning of this (as it has been generally accepted) is, to deny the jurisdiction of the new State within the limits of its perfect rights, to destroy the hopes and aspirations which Her Majesty's Government implanted in the breasts of the King of Bau and his fellow-Chiefs on the 11th of July, 1862, and which have been particularly fostered during the last two years by the expressed policy of Her Majesty's Cabinet. If the Secretary of State for the Colonies has intended any other meaning than this (the one commonly accepted), then your Lordship will see that there are equally good grounds for protesting against its ambiguity, the effects of which are so hurtful to those who, in the words of his Excellency Sir John Young, "have set themselves in a good way, "and are studying earnestly to attain a higher and purer standard of life and institutions."

I have forwarded the Circular Despatch to the King's Attorney-General, a copy of whose reply I beg to enclose.

Your Lordship is already aware that Thakobau, the Chief of Bau, and the other principal Chiefs of Fiji, offered to cede this group of islands to Great Britain in 1859, and that the offer was declined, through the medium of his Excellency the Governor of New South Wales, in a document of a formal nature. This document is now before me, and is indorsed—

"Presented personally by me, on board Her Majesty's ship 'Miranda,' at Levuka, this 11th day of "July, 1862.

"ROBERT JENKINS,
"Captain and Senior Officer."

It is directed to "Thakobau, Vunivula, Tui Viti" (or King of Fiji), "and the assembled Chiefs of the Fiji "Islands," and concludes by expressing the warmest sympathy for their "longings after peace and good order," such as, in effect, would now be within their grasp, but for the Resident Representative and some of the subjec of that nation acknowledging to have received a lofty tribute of confidence and esteem.

In October, 1869, the Chiefs, who had made much progress in the seven intervening years, again made an offer to place these Islands under Her Majesty's protection; and, at their united desire, I prepared a second Memorial, which was handed by me to Mr. Consul March, soon after his assumption of office.

To this Petition Mr. Consul March avers no reply has ever been made.

In 1870 the Rev. Dr. Laing and other gentlemen petitioned the Legislative Assembly of New South

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Wales on the subject of Fiji, and in the same year certain resolutions were adopted at the Inter-Colonial Conference in favour of the establishment of a British Protectorate over the Islands.

In reply, Earl Kimberley notified that Her Majesty's Government would adhere to its former decision not to extend British Sovereignty over Fiji, which was now more able than formerly to provide for its own government.

On the 3rd November, 1871, the same nobleman instructed Colonial Governors to deal with the newly-constituted Government so de facto so far as concerns the districts which may acknowledge its rule, but that Her Majesty's Government was not prepared to give any opinion as to the propriety of formerly recognizing it without much fuller information as to its character and prospects.

Its character and prospects are, I trust, more fully known now than when the Despatch from which I have quoted was written, and in consequence of which several gentlemen, both in this country and in the Colonies, took an active part in Fijian affairs.

Upon the 12th April, 1872, in a Despatch to the Administrator of the Government of New South Wales, Earl Kimberley states that the Imperial Government decides, in the case of Fiji, that the existing authority shall be treated as a de facto Government, and that such decision shall be conformed to by the Colonial Governments.

Your Lordship has been, doubtless, informed that official demands have been made upon this Government by Her Majesty's representative officers for the surrender of fugitives from justice, for the apprehension of escaped prisoners, for the imprisonment and safe custody—as an act of comity—of British subjects charged with offences committed upon the high seas, and that all and every such request has met with such a response as to call forth the warm acknowledgments of such officers. Irregularities have been suppressed, crime punished, and no efforts have been spared to prove to Her Majesty's Government and the world at large that the reciprocal assistance of Great Britain is alone wanted to perfect the authority now established.

It is difficult to conceive how the right of self-preservation and the authority of this Government can be denied by Her Majesty's Ministers. Rejected, but with considerate and honourable sympathy in the first instance; abandoned without a reply in the second; distinctly refused protection (in reply to the petition of New South Wales) in the third; encouraged, almost advised, to establish an independent Government; and finally, recognized and treated as a de facto one,—how can the last Despatch from the Colonial Office be reconciled with the rights of justice, humanity, or the established principles of International Law? Urged forward by their wants, animated by the necessities of self-preservation, the intelligent natives have asserted their right to form a Government, and thus command the protection of law. Can Her Majesty's Government be aware that a feud has been begun by men mostly Her Majesty's subjects, whose principal object is to kill off the Fijians, and to acquire by murder, treachery, and fraud, their lands; that the war of the so-called superior against the so-called inferior race has commenced, and is only held in check, and can only be crushed, by the Government now established in Fiji?

I venture to hope, my Lord, and particularly so after the frequent expression of sympathy the Fijians have received from Her Majesty's Representatives, that no colour will be lent to the violent acts of British subjects by any delay, on the part of Her Majesty's Ministers, to set them right on this head.

The Fijians, though only emerging into the light of civilization, are not a wandering savage tribe. They have always been an agricultural people, with fixed towns and fixed laws as to property. Unlike the New Hebrides and other groups of islands, where, at intervals of ten miles or so, a different dialect is spoken, this group possesses only one language, and the people have only one name for themselves throughout its 200 islands. They feel and know that Fiji is theirs, and that, having offered it to Her Majesty upon two occasions, without its being accepted, her Government will not support her wandering subjects in their attempts to acquire it by fraud and murder.

It is not asserted by Her Majesty's Government that the laws of Fiji have been made the medium of injustice or oppression, nor that its Tribunals have violated any principle of international law or comity, nor has it in direct terms denied the right of the Sovereign to govern his kingdom independently of all foreign influence or control, which, indeed, would be inconsistent with the Colonial Office Despatches already quoted.

I am therefore directed to respectfully press this matter upon the attention of Her Majesty's Government, to claim for the Sovereign of this kingdom the inherent right of exclusive jurisdiction within the whole extent of his domain, territorial and maritime, to enter his earnest protest against the terms of the Circular Despatch of which a copy is enclosed, and to state that if British subjects or other persons within the jurisdiction of this State are found in arms against its Sovereign, they will at once be subjected to the action of British laws, the practice and principles of which have been adopted here.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN V. S. THURSTON,
Chief Secretary.

Enclosure 1 in No. 8.

CIRCULAR DESPATCH TO THE GOVERNORS OF AUSTRALIAN COLONIES.

Downing Street, August 14, 1872.

Her Majesty's Government have had under their consideration a question which has arisen with reference to the Government established de facto in the Fijian Islands, namely, whether beyond the limits of the new State, British subjects, so long as the new State is not recognized, can be accepted as citizens of it, and exempted from British jurisdiction in respect of acts done by them or engagements entered into with them. A reference has been made to the Law Officers of the Crown, who have advised Her Majesty's Govern-

ment that British subjects beyond the limits of the new State, not yet duly recognized, should not be accepted as citizens of the new State, nor be held exempted from British jurisdiction for acts done by them on British territory or on board ships "which ought to be navigated under the British flag." And further that they should not be held exempt from British jurisdiction for engagements entered into with them in cases where the validity or construction of such engagements would properly and in ordinary course be triable before a British tribunal. They are further of opinion that Her Majesty's Government may interfere with the acts and engagements of British subjects within Fiji, and may declare certain acts and engagements to be legal or illegal in the case of British subjects within Fiji. The Law Officers have also reported with reference to inquiries made through Mr. Consul March, by certain half-castes residing in Fiji, as to the protection which could be granted to them on account of their British origin, in connection with the establishment of a de facto Government; that the half-castes in question appear to be illegitimate children of Fiji women, and to have been born in Fijian territory, and that, consequently, their nationality is not British, and that they are not entitled to British protection. These opinions are communicated to you for your information and guidance.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

Enclosure 2 in No. 8.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL OF FIJI to Mr. THURSTON.

SIR, Department of Law, Levuka, December 2, 1872.

The Circular Despatch from Her Britannic Majesty's Secretary for the Colonies (Lord Kimberley) of the 14th August last, which has just been published in the local papers here, and to which you have drawn my attention, demands, in my opinion, from the King's Government its immediate protest, for the following reasons.

2. (*a*) Because it is so doubtfully worded that it is calculated to mislead; (*b*) because it is not in accordance with international law as now generally received; (*c*) because, although directed to British colonial authorities, and not to this Government direct, it comes authoritatively to Englishmen denizened in this kingdom, and will give colour and encouragement to such of them as have hitherto seized on every pretence for resisting the legal action of our Constitution in order to place themselves beyond the control of any authority; and lastly (*d*) because it unnecessarily detracts from the legal position taken up by the Fijian authorities and nation.

3. The Despatch in question admits in the face of it, that Fiji is a "new State," territory, and nationality, and that this Government has been "established de facto," and then, with some incongruity, informs the Government to whom it is addressed, that reference has been made to the English Law Officers as to whether British subjects, "so long as the new State is not recognized, can, beyond its limits, be accepted "as citizens of it, and exempted from British jurisdiction in respect of acts done by them, or engagements "entered into with them;" and it then states that the advice received is (in effect), that beyond the limits of Fiji, British subjects are British subjects still, and retain their ordinary liabilities for acts done on British territory, or on board British ships.

4. Of this we need not complain, but the Law Officers "are further of opinion that Her Majesty's "Government may interfere with the acts and engagements of British subjects within Fiji, and may declare "certain acts and engagements to be legal or illegal in the case of British subjects within Fiji."

5. Now although it may be that Lord Kimberley only means to notify that British subjects, still under allegiance to the English Crown, are responsible to British Tribunals for any violations of the laws of their nationality committed within Fiji, on their return to British soil, it is evident that he may be, and in the Colonies as well as here, has been, understood to claim the right to interfere actively, within Fiji herself, with the acts and engagements of British subjects done or entered into here, however such may be justified by Fijian law.

6. With the utmost respect for the opinions of the British Crown Law Officers, whose high standing in their profession is universally acknowledged, I feel it my duty, as the legal adviser of His Majesty's Government, to deny that the British Government has any right within our territorial jurisdiction to intermeddle with any acts or engagements not internationally aggressive, otherwise than by diplomatic advice or remonstrance, excepting the right of the strong against the weak, which has long yielded to the law and comity of nations.

7. I cannot suppose that the English Secretary of State intended to rely on the mere preponderance of his country's power, for why, in that case, refer to his Law Officers at all; and it is so well understood that Great Britain insists on all the public acts of its statesmen in relation to other States, being in accordance with the accepted principles of International Law, that I feel certain any divergence needs only to be shown, to be corrected by the high-minded gentlemen at the head of British affairs.

8. On what grounds can any British Officer come here and interfere between King and people, that term including all persons (not extra-territorial) within his dominions?

9. Such an interference would be subversive of all authority between the Government and the inhabitants of a State, whilst the highest English authorities have declared that "the right of jurisdiction, "civil and criminal, over all persons and things within the territorial limits, which is incidental to a State "relatively to its own subjects and their property, extends also as a general rule to foreigners commorant in "the land" * (the exceptions being Ambassadors, ships of war, &c., &c.).—Again, that "natural allegiance, "or the obligation of perpetual obedience to the Government of the country† wherein a man may happen to

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* Vide Phillimore, vol. i., sec. 321.

† Vide Twiss, vol. i., sec. 160.

be born, which (it is alleged) he cannot forfeit, or cancel, or vary, by any change of time, or place, or circumstance, is the creature of civil law, and finds no countenance in the law of nations, as it is in direct conflict with the incontestable rule of that law. Again, says the same high authority, The power of a nation to bind by its laws its natural-born members, everywhere is subordinate to the territorial sovereignty. They cannot be enforced within the territory of another nation.* The exercise of personal sovereignty over natural-born subjects in respect of matters happening within the territory of another nation, is not, in point of natural right, clear upon any acknowledged principle, nor is the authority of a nation to bind them, whilst they are within the territory of another nation, by personal laws recognized by other nations; residence is, in fact, the foundation of jurisdiction under the law of nations.

10. If, says Wheaton, this notion "of perpetual allegiance and the consequent power of the prerogative "were the law of the world," "then impressment (in a foreign country) might be defended as a common "right," † there might be quite as just "a prerogative right to the property of subjects as to their personal "services, but no Government thought of controlling by its own laws the property of its subjects situated "abroad. As laws, the prerogatives of the Crown of England have no obligation on persons or property "domiciled or situated abroad;" and, speaking of impeachment, another English writer declares that "it "rested on the doctrine of the inalienable allegiance of subjects to their Sovereign; but by the modern "conceptions of the law of nations, territorial independence is the more powerful principle within the "territorial limits or under the flag of another State,‡ any foreign sovereignty becomes subject." But the English Naturalization Act of 1870 (section 6) abandons this claim to perpetual allegiance in effect, and this renders the position of British subjects denizened in a foreign country more in consonance with the views of the present age.

11. If, then, England's claim to require from their subjects abroad obedience to her municipal laws is subservient to the temporary allegiance they must owe to the Sovereign of the territory, and the laws paramount of the country in which they reside, it follows that to interpose and declare that to be illegal which such laws uphold, merely because English law (which has no force there) is of opposite tendency, is to tell England's subjects that they may enter and reside in the territory of a foreign prince, and utterly disregard such of his laws as are not in strict accordance with the laws of England, and that obedience to the foreign law will not justify a breach of laws expressly framed for English soil. English territory and English jurisdiction, English ideas and English institutions, and on the same principle the various attempts of the Roman Pontiff to exercise territorial and personal authority over Roman Catholics in England may be justified, if sufficient power existed to enforce them.

12. I do not pretend to say that acts or engagement here, having an aggressive tendency towards the rights and laws of British subjects outside this kingdom, may not be dealt with by English Law Courts or Ministers, when the actors or contractors get within their reach, if they, when the matters arose, were under allegiance to the English Crown, provided the act or engagement complained of was in direct contravention of some established law binding on the English denizen abroad, or was (like piracy) a crime against all mankind; but to carry the principle further would, I apprehend, be mischievous and prejudicial not only to the rights of the foreigner, but of Englishmen generally.

13. When, therefore, it is proposed to deal with, to legalize, or to interfere with the acts or engagements of British subjects in this kingdom, the principle "that the judicial power of every State is co-extensive "only with its Legislative power" is disregarded, without the exceptional reasons founded upon treaty or the comity of nations.

14. No doubt the English Law Officers make it an ingredient of their opinion that it is intended only to apply to British subjects in a new State "not duly recognized," but I submit this is not only inoperative as affording a ground for the action proposed, but does not apply in the case of Fiji, which is a confederation of several independent Chiefdoms, professing Christianity, and having distinct laws, whereby such independence and laws have been brought under one constitutional King and Parliament, bound down by written statutes based upon the principles and practice of English law, the jurisdiction within the limits of the kingdom not being acquired by conquest, by succession, or by colonization, but by voluntary compact between King and people over the territories previously subject to the independent Chiefs.

15. The jurisdiction of the native Chiefs has been over and over again acknowledged by England, by the Duke of Newcastle, when Colonial Minister, in his official reply to the proffered cession of the Islands to Great Britain, and by Lord Kimberley himself in March, 1871, when reiterating such refusal; and the Despatch now under review admits the new Confederation or kingdom to have been established de facto.

16. "A new State," says Wheaton, "springing into existence does not require the recognition of other "States to confirm its internal sovereignty.§ The existence of the State de facto is sufficient, in this respect, "to establish its sovereignty de jure. It is a State because it exists." Lord Malmesbury is reported to have said, "It had been the usual policy of England, for twenty-two years (prior to 1852) ‖ to acknowledge the "constitutional doctrine that the people of every country had the right to choose their own Sovereign without "foreign interference, and when chosen, being de facto the ruler of that country, should be recognized by the "Sovereign of Great Britain."

17. So far, therefore, as regards any laws or decrees to operate or be fully executed within Fiji, the right to give denization, and to naturalize foreigners, to confer licences on shipmasters and commissions on Naval Officers authorizing their command of Fijian vessels, to condemn private vessels belonging to foreigners in proceedings in rem, and generally to exercise all rights of sovereignty over persons and things within the kingdom, the recognition of the Government de facto is a recognition de jure, and binds England to respect its legal acts both within and without the King's dominions; for the English authorities are not at liberty to say what is legal and valid where effected can become illegal and invalid merely because the person or vessel affected has since gone beyond the limits of the country, although the act or engagement involved nothing prejudicial to England in its inception or direct operation. It may be that England may refuse to

* Vide Twiss, vol. i., p. 217.
† Lawrence's Wheaton, 2nd ed., 212, 213.
‡ 'Edinburgh Review,' No. 233, p. 138.
§ Lawrence's Wheaton, 2nd ed., p. 36.
‖ Annual Register, 1852, p. 165.

receive our Ambassador, or to afford us international comities within her own territories, but then she has no right to claim similar concessions from "the new State;" and for all else I submit that recognition of this Government as a de facto controlling power over the Fijian Islands is a recognition de jure, whether formally confirmed by Act of State and interchange of Envoys or not. To put any other construction on the official acts of English statesmen would be to charge them with insincerity and incongruity, and would be, I think, to reason illogically.

18. It may be that Her Majesty's Government does not yet see its way to full diplomatic intercourse with Fiji; and, indeed, that may be safely left to time and the better appreciation of our efforts to further order and civilization in this remote country; but it is, I conceive, our duty meantime, to guard the interests of His Majesty and his kingdom against inroad, even when the offspring merely of unintentional error.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) C. R. FORWOOD,
Attorney-General of Fiji.

Enclosure 3 in No. 8.

Extract from the 'Melbourne Age,' of October 30, 1873.

Fijian matters are by no means settled, and King Thakobau does not reign supreme. The telegram from Sydney announces that England still retains jurisdiction over English subjects in Fiji, and claims the right to interfere with all engagements made in Fiji or on board ships which should be sailed under the British flag. This announcement is really tantamount to saying that the kingdom of Fiji may be dominant as far as Fijians are concerned, but no further, and the hint is pretty strongly conveyed that a Protectorate is not altogether out of the question. The effect of this announcement in Fiji will be considerable. Those persons who consider themselves aggrieved by the officials will now fly for redress to the British Consul. The complication of affairs which may ensue is not easily to be reckoned, and if a conflict between Fiji authority and British subjects should take place, the 'Cossack,' or any other British man-of-war at Levuka, would protect the rights of British subjects. The march of events points to one of two issues, either Thakobau will have a rule according to British direction and under British protection, or else he will soon be a Sovereign without a kingdom or power.

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REPORT

OF

COMMODORE GOODENOUGH

AND

MR. CONSUL LAYARD

ON THE OFFER OF THE

CESSION OF THE FIJI ISLANDS

TO THE

BRITISH CROWN.

(In continuation of Command Paper [C.—983] of April 1874.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
July 1874.

LONDON:

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[C.—1011.] *Price* 9*d.*

Report of Commodore Goodenough and Mr. Consul Layard on the Offer of the Cession of the Fiji Islands to the British Crown.

Report of Commodore Goodenough and Mr. Consul Layard on the Fiji Islands.

"Pearl," at Levuka, Fiji, April 13, 1874.

My Lord, (Received June 10, 1874.)

IN the instructions issued to us by Lord Kimberley, desiring us to inquire and report on the offer of cession of the Fiji Islands to the British Crown, we are informed that four possible modes of action are open to Her Majesty's Government:—

(1.) To invest the British Consul with magisterial powers over British subjects settled in the Fiji Islands;

(2.) To recognize the Government which now exists in the islands, and which has already been dealt with a *de facto* Government;

(3.) To establish a British Protectorate over the islands;

(4.) The assumption by Her Majesty of territorial Sovereignty over the Islands, and, as a necessary sequence, the constitution within them of some form of Colonial Government.

2. The objections to the third mode, which had appeared so strong to Her Majesty's Government, we find to be even stronger than is suggested by our instructions. We have received evidence of the dislike with which it would be received by British residents, and we, therefore, do not suppose that your Lordship will wish us to dwell further upon it.

3. As, in our opinion, the only remaining alternative lies between the assumption by Her Majesty of territorial Sovereignty over the Islands and to invest the Consul with magisterial power over British subjects settled here, we will at once proceed to consider the second mode of action suggested by our instructions, and to give your Lordship a sketch of the establishment of the present Government in these islands, from which we believe that your Lordship will conclude, with us, that it is very far indeed from being likely that any Government can be established here which is, in any sense, native or indigenous, or which could become tolerable to the native or white planter.

4. In order to reply to an objection which might be made that the Sandwich Islands and the Tongan Islands are examples which may be quoted of success in native Government, we may remark that, in each of these cases, a superior native Chief succeeded in establishing his supreme rule before the advent of any number of Europeans; in each case missionaries preceded the trader or planter, and were able to instil a considerable amount of self-respect and culture into the natives; and in neither case has there been so rapid and sudden an influx of foreigners, as in Fiji. In the Fiji Islands this great influx of settlers took place from and since the date of Colonel Smythe's report to Her Majesty's Government. The fact of Colonel Smythe's mission, before his report was made known, gave British settlers a hope of annexation to Great Britain; and the faithful account given by Dr. Seemann of the fertility of the islands, and their suitableness as a new area for cotton-planting, stimulated the immigration which followed.

5. Fiji was still at that time, and up to a much more recent date, without any one head, as may be seen from Colonel Smythe's report, Mr. Thurston's correspondence on the Polynesian Land Question, 1868, and other documents. The Chief of Bau was, however, besides being the undoubted ruler over a large area, the most influential personage over the group generally, and so continued up to August 1871. Up to this time the white settlers generally, throughout the

different districts, had sought to extend their own influence, and to maintain order, by preferring some local Chief before all others, and then enabling him by presents of arms or cloth, and other things, to extend his influence, so that he might be the judge of all native disputes brought before him, and also the medium through whom purchases of land might be made. They, of course, adhered to the Chiefs who were already the most powerful, by birth or by the issue of native wars, and Cakobau's power, among others, was greatly due to this influence.

6. One Chief alone was always an exception to this rule. Maafu, the Tongan, whose antecedents have been reported to the Foreign Office, made a position for himself, assisted, it is true, by one or two Englishmen, who attached themselves directly to him. He was frequently stopped in his career by the influence of the British Consul, and but for this he would probably have been before now the principal Chief of Fiji.

7. From about 1865, various attempts were made at different parts of the group, under the influence of whites, to establish the first principles of Government; and Cakobau, Maafu, and one or two other Chiefs were assisted by English Secretaries—or, perhaps we should say instructed by English Secretaries—to draw up and issue Constitutions. Thus there were Constitutions of Bau of 1865 and 1867, Laws of Tovata of 1867, and others; the Secretaries to these Chiefs being, in nearly every case, respectable and, in some cases, able men. There were, however considerable districts beyond the boundaries of Bau or of the Tovata; and, as yet, no administration of justice had been attempted beyond the native magistracy of local Chiefs.

8. The feeling of the white population that it was absolutely necessary to erect some sort of central Government, under which Law Courts for the recovery of debt and repression of crime, could be constituted, now increased; and, in 1869, the native Chiefs seem to have been stimulated by the whites to send to Her Majesty's Consul petitions for British protection. Various associations of whites were made, which, in turn, tried to erect a Republican form of Government, and obtain annexation to the United States—without success; and the first actual concession of legislative powers to whites appears to have been the granting of a charter by Cakobau to the white residents of Levuka, to make improvement in the local settlement by enacting bye-laws for imposing fines, &c. It is dated 21st November, 1870. This, however, was altogether insufficient for the purposes of inaugurating what was wanted, namely, a Court of Law; and the first successful attempt at the formation of a General Goverment was made very shortly after.

9. At this time, Cakobau's direct sovereignty was limited to Bau, to part of Ovalau, great part of the Rewa, and several central islands. His influence extended westward to Ba River on the north, and to Suva on the south side of Viti Levu, far less, altogether, than half of Viti Levu, or a third of the group. It had appeared to be the interest of every one to uphold and extend that authority and influence; and both the claim of the United States for 9,000*l*., and also the action of English authorities, had contributed to make him the principal Chief of Fiji.

10. As we have said, the whites, throughout the group, had been anxious for a General Government, but the merchants of Levuka, to whom many of the planters were in debt, were naturally the most eager for the establishment of Courts of Law; but the immediate cause of their proceeding to active measures was the fact that a new line of steamers was advertised to run from Australia to San Francisco, and that it was most desirable to induce them to call at Levuka on their way. Some of the principal merchants subscribed to light Levuka Harbour and to survey the northern entrance to the group, namely, the Nanuku passage. They were further desirous of securing to the Steamship Company a small subsidy, and were at once met by the difficulty that they had often met before, that the co-operation might be promised, for this or any other scheme, but could not be secured.

About this time, viz., May 1871, a Mr. Sydney Burt, who happened to have come here from Sydney, was Cakobau's Commercial Agent; a Mr. G. A. Woods, formerly Colonial Surveyor in New Zealand, was employed in determining positions for placing a light for the navigation of the Nanuku passage; and a Mr. Drew was Cakobau's Secretary. The resident whites seem not to have understood how to set to work to constitute themselves into a Government, and seem to have combined with Mr. Woods and Mr. Burt to get Cakobau recognized as King of Fiji, and, under his authority, to form a Ministry of seven persons, comprising two native Chiefs, two principal merchants, Mr. Sagar, Mr. Woods, Mr. Burt.

11. These persons (for neither the Chief Cakobau nor other native understood anything about it) assembled the foreign residents in Levuka by notice, and there read a speech, purporting to be from Cakobau, who was present, and announcing the nomination of his Ministers and his intention to govern under a Constitution by their aid.

12. It is greatly to be regretted that the gentleman who occupied the post of Her Majesty's Consul at this time was not fitted, either by his knowledge of the islands or by a legitimate influence with the Chiefs to direct the course of affairs. The influence and authority, which should of right have been exerted by him at this moment, were not used to keep the Chiefs and the British residents from making great mistakes. Had Mr. March possessed that influence and authority, we believe he might, on the one hand, have given such advice to the Chief as would have insured his selecting trustworthy persons as Ministers; and, on the other hand, have induced all residents to give the support to the laws, now for the first time introduced, as would have insured their ready acceptance.

The mistake now made, and which has led to many subsequent ones, was that the whole public, native and foreign, were taken by surprise. A General Government was started without the general consent; and, consequently, although the whites in all parts of the group were induced, by their strong desire for a Government of some sort or other and by fair promises, to adhere at first to what was then started; yet both whites and natives have held themselves free to disown and oppose the Government so constituted whenever they thought fit, and to ask for its dissolution. But for the interference and influence of the house of Hennings in one direction, and that of Captain Chapman, of Her Majesty's ship "Dido," in another, there can be little doubt that both Maafu, Chief of Lau, and Tui Cakau, Chief of the northern part of the group, would have separated from the Government of Cakobau before this; and an organized resistance to the Government on the part of the planters of Ba, Nadi, and Nadroga (the west extreme of Viti Levu), might possibly have been successful, had it not been for Captain Chapman's intervention in February 1873.

13. There can be no doubt that the personal unpopularity of Mr. Woods, who made himself the leader of the Government movement, as well as an unnecessary and arbitrary assumption of authority by him, had something to do with the resistance offered to the Government; but the chief cause of distrust among the whites was the subsequent spectacle of an extravagant expenditure of money on an elaborate form of Constitutional Government, which sensible men felt to be unsuited to the country. There was, besides this, a residuum of ill-disposed men at Levuka, who objected to all law, and who took advantage of the indifference of the respectable to make themselves prominent. These were a small fraction and entirely distinct from the body of planters and merchants who form the real bulk of the settlers.

14. This Government having, however, made good its start, proceeded to invite white delegates to consult with them, and also with the Chiefs, who were induced to come down and adhere to the General Government. The white residents consented and sent delegates, and it is clear, from what has followed, that the idea in their minds was that the Chiefs were to govern their own people, and that the whites were to invite the confidence of people abroad by showing themselves capable of self-government, by developing the resources of the country, and by showing that the administration of laws could be secured. Such a body of delegates as was here assembled could not be expected, on the one hand, to understand much of law or constitutions; or, on the other, to have any particular predisposition in favour of natives. Their main motive was, of course, to advance their own interests, and, in matters beyond their immediate interests, they were easily led to abandon the country to an active and energetic man like Mr. Woods.

15. The delegates framed a Constitution, and under the Constitution a Parliament was elected, and sat in 1872 and 1873. There was not, nor was there likely to be, any deliberate intention of injuring the natives, but it was, perhaps, inevitable that a body of men sent up to guard the interests of white constituents should ignore the existence of a native, except as a payer of poll-tax, a possible labourer and a consumer of imported goods. The interests of natives were undoubtedly ignored to this extent—that they were left to shift for themselves, and as, on account of the imposition of the poll-tax, they had a right to have been, but were not, protected from the old-fashioned irregular imposts of native Chiefs, they have suffered considerably by the inauguration of a new Government. Their chief

sufferings seem to have arisen from the power of the Chiefs to force their people to labour, and also from the action of the Government in giving over prisoners of war to white planters to labour, in consideration of yearly contributions to the Treasury: but, perhaps, that which shows most clearly the evil of white domination, was an act of the Legislature of July 1872, which authorizes the putting of Fijians to hard labour on conviction of non-payment of poll-tax; the hard labour being a service on the plantation of a white settler.

It is right to say that though this Act passed the House, it was objected to by some of the planters, who felt it to be a policy which would bring them into collision with the natives.

Under this Act, as well as under a regulation by which prisoners of war were hired out to planters, natives have been consigned to temporary slavery, and the spirit of the Imperial Kidnapping Act has been violated.

16. The body of self appointed Ministers continued in power up to March 1872, without giving satisfaction either to whites or natives; but now Mr. Thurston, who had been acting at one time as Her Majesty's Consul and had the confidence of all parties, was asked, in the absence of Mr. Woods at Sidney, to take the chief place in the Ministry. He consented, but on the return of Mr. Woods, that gentleman managed to retain his post as premier, to the great dissatisfaction of the white population.

17. To the continued want of frankness in financial matters on the part of the Ministers, which was, of course, and rightly, ascribed to their inability to produce a satisfactory account, was now added a series of mismanaged native affairs, which threatened to embroil the whites with the natives to a greater extent even than the whites, by occasional strong measures against trespassers and by disputable land transactions with native Chiefs, had embroiled themselves.

18. Still, Mr. Thurston's having taken office might have led to a better state of things, had it not been for Mr. Woods' continuance in the Ministry, and also, it must be said, the continued bad success of planters with their cotton plantations. With cotton at the high prices of 1868 and 1869, the majority of the people would have cared little how they were governed, or how much public debt was contracted.

Throughout the group more and more dissatisfaction was felt, and the dissatisfaction was met by defiance instead of by conciliation. Mr. Thurston seems to have been animated by the sincerest desire to maintain order and the administration of law, but seems to have insisted on making the theoretic unity of Cakobau's Kingdom (an unity which was only brought into existence by the good-will of the white planters), a foundantion on which he sought to rest the exclusive right of Cakobau and his Ministers to govern in the interest of the native population. A parade of this theory was not likely to advance their practical interests or to gain the assistance of the whites. Although the theory might deserve to be regarded with sympathy, we cannot find that, in practice, the native policy since pursued has in any way contributed to the comfort or welfare of the natives, who have openly come to us, on our journey about the Coast, to complain of the impossibility of their living under the white Government.

19. The state in which we find the islands is then the following:—

A native Chief has been raised to supreme power by the white population. In working a constitution under him the latter have found themselves, as a matter of fact, the disposers of the interests of the natives. A ministry, which at first rested upon the support of the whites, has, by raising an armed force, felt it possible to make itself independent of them, and has sought to govern the country on the theory of preserving native interests and treating whites as aliens. In the course of two years they have spent about 124,000*l.* and are 87,000*l.* in debt.

The most respectable white merchants and planters have assured us of their inability to meet this debt unless an influx of capital takes place, the whole capital now invested in the country being about 250,000*l.*

The Chiefs have been induced to assume the responsibility of the debt, but could not possibly meet it, and, we feel, do not understand their liability. In the attempt to meet it the people would be reduced to worse slavery than has ever been the case before.

20. This is the state to which the Government of the islands has now been brought, and we beg to reply in answer to the questions put to us by your Lordship under this head.

Q. (1.) To what extent is the actual Government acknowledged throughout the islands by either the natives or by the white settlers?—*A.* The present Government

is acknowledged throughout the islands by the natives and whites; but that which we found on our arrival was only able to keep its position by the aid which it received from the presence of one of Her Majesty's ships. But for our influence at this moment, Maafu would probably separate himself from the Government and draw the Chief of Tavinni, Tui Cakau, with him.

Q. (2.) Whether the resistance which has recently been offered to it is grounded upon a belief that it is not properly constituted, and has no sufficient title to the power which it affects to exercise, or to an objection to the persons now constituting the administration, such as would be removed by the substitution of persons possessing in a greater degree the confidence of the inhabitants?—*A.* Resistance seems to have been offered to it at first both on account of objections to the persons assuming posts of ministers, namely, to Mr. Woods and Mr. Burt; and also on account of the way in which they assumed those posts; and latterly, on account of personal objections to Mr. Woods and Mr. Thurston, and their extravagance and arbitrary acts. We do not think that the objections to the last form of Government would be removed by the substitution of other persons, as the confidence of the settlers has been thoroughly shaken in all attempts at self-government, and we know of no persons in the impoverished state of the community, who are capable, by their trustworthiness, knowledge, and independence, to undertake the posts of permanent and nominated ministers satisfactorily.

Q. (3.) Whether there is a reasonable prospect that a Government so constituted will possess stability, and will be able to preserve order and to punish crime?—*A.* There is no reasonable prospect that a native Government can continue to preserve order. It is, indeed, impossible for it to do so.

Q. (4.) What securities would the Fijian Government, if recognized, be prepared to give that slavery should not, in any form, directly or indirectly, exist in the islands; that kidnapping, whether carried on in ships under the Fijian flag or under other flags, should, as far as lay in their power, be effectually repressed: and that labourers imported from other islands should be humanely treated, and should only be employed in accordance with contracts freely entered into by them?—*A.* We have, however, asked King Cakobau's Ministers the questions to which your Lordship directed our attention. Though we have received no reply, we have no doubt whatever that an affirmative one would be given by the King and Chiefs.

21. Should Her Majesty's Government, however, determine on the continued recognition of a native Government here, assisted by white advisers, with a view to full recognition hereafter when it can justify its claim to such recognition, then we are of opinion that Her Majesty's Consul must, for the preservation of order, be furnished with discretionary power to exert magisterial authority, and to open a Court, for which the following staff would be required,—an Assistant Judge, a Law Secretary, four policemen, a gaoler, a boat's crew of natives. It would also be desirable to obtain from Cakobau a perpetual lease of his right to the island of Ovalau, so as to place it under municipal authority of white residents under Her Majesty's Consul, although Customs duties should be payable to the Fijian Government. Moreover, it would be necessary in such a case to send a ship to visit the islands frequently, and to employ a small vessel constantly, if the Consul found it necessary to use his discretionary power.

22. Your Lordship will understand the necessity for this when we say that we are of opinion, after due inquiry, that, if Cakobau were to die, or if Her Majesty's Government do not resolve on accepting the offer of cession now made, a struggle for power would begin among the Chiefs, which the whites, unaided by one of Her Majesty's ships or other evident force, might find it impossible to direct to a peaceful issue.

23. We may, therefore, reply to questions in this branch of our inquiry:—

Q. (1.) Whether the Government now holding power in Fiji would acquiesce in such an arrangement, or could properly be required to accept it?—*A.* The advisers of Cakobau might possibly object to such an arrangement, having an extravagant idea of their rights and responsibilities, but could properly be required to accept it, as the safety of many of Her Majesty's subjects would be in the balance.

Q. (2.) Whether the settlers of British origin would submit to such Consular jurisdiction, or could be compelled to do so?—*A.* The settlers of British origin would gladly submit to the Consular jurisdiction, and could be compelled to do so by the force above described; cases beyond the Consul's power to deal with being removed to the Supreme Court at Sydney, in the same way that the Consular Courts in China and Japan used to work with the Supreme Court at Hong Kong.

Q. (3.) In the event of such jurisdiction being established over British subjects, what would be the position of other persons of European origin not being British subjects?—*A.* The United States' Consul possesses magisterial powers already, and has used them until he found the local Courts established. German settlers are all dependent on houses of business in Sydney, and would in all cases submit to arbitration of their Consul or jurisdiction of the British Consul. They are reasonable and law-abiding people.

Q. (4.) What would be the status of vessels owned by British subjects in Fiji, and whether, in the event of such vessels being placed for any reason under the Fijian flag, Her Majesty's Government could practically refuse to recognize them, as having thereby acquired any rights or immunities which they would not possess if they remained under the British flag?—*A.* We think that Her Majesty's Government could interfere with such vessels were they infringing any British Act, supposing that the Consul had sufficient assistance; and we are sure that it would be necessary to do so.

24. If Her Majesty's Government do not finally determine to annex these islands, the only course to be pursued is, in our opinion, to give to Her Majesty's Consul the large discretionary powers and assistance above spoken of, with which he would have no difficulty in controlling the employment of Polynesian labourers, as Her Majesty's Consul is now endeavouring, but without magisterial powers, to do. By the employment of one of Her Majesty's ships most of the plantations have been visited, and some abuses have been remedied.

The great majority of the planters have been gratified by these visits, which Commodore Goodenough has reported to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and have been glad to see the abuses (which have not been frequent) dealt with in a summary manner.

We here feel it due to the great body of planters to say that, with regard to food, clothing, and houses, the Polynesian labourers are far better off than when on their native islands.

25. We submit to your Lordship that, in the event of the refusal of Her Majesty's Government to annex these islands, the discretionary power above spoken of should be conferred upon Her Majesty's Consul without delay, as it is impossible to predict what may take place from day to day; and we think that this fact, taken in conjunction with the very brief sketch which we have given of the origin of the Government here, furnishes the justification aud necessity for giving such powers. But we need not point out that the use of these powers, and the interference of Her Majesty Consul in Fijian affairs, which the use of such powers would bring about, would amount to a Protectorate, and would be a Protectorate of an undefined and inconvenient character.

26. We now offer a reply to your Lordship's questions under the head of the last of the four courses which are open to Her Majesty's Government, viz., the acceptance of the cession of Fiji now offered.

Q. (1.) Whether Cakobau and the other native Chiefs, and the native population generally, as well as the white settlers, desire and would acquiesce in the establishment of the authority of the British Crown over the islands. Full inquiry should be made as to the power and authority of the Chiefs to make over the sovereignty? —*A.* We inclose a paper showing the express wish of Cakobau and the other Chiefs as to annexation to Great Britain. They have full power and authority to make the cession; and, were we to add anything to this, we should say that the lesser Chiefs and people are more anxious for annexation than the high Chiefs. Some of the latter have fears of their old rights of levying contributions of food, mats, and oil, &c., being taken away without recompense. But we find generally an unwillingness to dissent from an opinion of the superior Chief. We have taken the greatest pains to insure our obtaining a real record of the actual wishes of the Chiefs and people, and we consider the above-named document is as accurate a representation of that wish as can possibly be obtained. The white settlers are unanimous in their wish for annexation.

Q. (2.) What form of Government is it proposed should be established in the islands, in the event of their becoming British?—We have not only endeavoured to frame our own opinion as to what would be the best form of Government for these islands, but have also consulted the principal planters and others, and we find the general wish of the great majority to be in favour of that of a Crown Colony.

Q. (3, 5.) Is it supposed, having regard to the numbers and nationality of the white residents and of the native population, that responsible Government, as it

exists in the neighbouring Colonies would be appropriate to Fiji; and, if so, is there among the settlers a sufficient number of persons qualified to supply the materials for an elected Legislature and for an Executive Government composed of members of that Legislature?—*A.* 3. We do not consider that responsible Government in any form would be suited to Fiji, nor do the people, white or native, desire it. On the contrary, feeling the recent failure of representative and responsible Government strongly, they unanimously wish for an Executive appointed from England.

A. (5.) Although some of the inhabitants of Levuka think that a plan of representation, akin to that now in existence in West Australia, would be best suited to the circumstances of the group, the majority of the planters outside Levuka, who are generally in small isolated groups and at a distance, are in favour of the stricter form of Crown Colony, in which the Legislation is composed, as in Singapore and Ceylon, of various officers of Government, natives, planters, and merchants.

Our own recommendation is in favour of this plan, and it is obvious that it is more desirable from two points of view—first, on account of the absolute necessity that the Governor should take upon himself the duty of the defence of the interests of the less intelligent natives against the inevitable pressure of an increasing white population; secondly, because the best and most industrious planters will not be found, at first, to be willing or able to sacrifice their time for the public good; and the choice of a representative of the planting community would probably fall on a merchant or other resident of Levuka, who would be rather a delegate or advocate for the district which he represented than a representative of the general requirements of the country.

Q. (4.) How, if at all, would the natives be represented in the Legislature?—*A.* It would be advisable to give the native Chiefs a strong representation in the Government, to the extent of equal, or nearly equal, numbers with the white unofficial members in the Legislative Council. Their good-will would thus be gained, and the Government would be fortified by their knowledge of their districts.

Q. (6.) What would be the probable expenses of the Government?—In the Appendix we give a sketch of the Government and its expenses, which should suffice to begin with, leaving the improvements and enlargement of departments to follow on an increase of population. An estimate of the revenue and expenditure of the present Government is also appended.

Q. (7.) What is the actual revenue now levied by the existing Government? What are the sources from which it is derived? To what extent, and in what manner can it be increased, and what amount of revenue can reasonably be calculated upon as permanent?—*A.* In Appendix (Nos. 14 and 15) we give the actual revenue and expenditure of the Government up to 31st December, 1873, distinguishing the sources from which the revenue is derived: but it must be remembered that this has changed continually, and that the "native taxes" have always disappointed the Government.

The Customs duties may be increased from 7½ per cent. *ad valorem* on certain articles to 10 per cent., and the following spirits from 6*s.* 6*d.* to 12*s.* a gallon; wine, from 4*s.* to 6*s.* a gallon; tobacco, from 25 per cent. *ad valorem* to 50 per cent.

We think that a small tax on uncultivated land should be reimposed, after a survey has been made, and that the tax on cultivated land should be a local tax for the support of roads, bridges, piers, and wharves within the province where collected. Both these have been lately taken off.

Q. (8.) In what hands is the control over the revenue and expenditure to be lodged; especially how far such control, in any circumstances, be exercised from this country?—*A.* The control of such revenue and expenditure would be lodged in the hands of the Governor in Council, subject to the ultimate approval of the Secretary of State; and it would only be necessary that control should be exerted by the Secretary of State in cases of the contraction of a fresh loan or the undertaking of operations, public works, &c., which would necessitate a loan and a large expenditure.

Henceforth Fiji will probably be at a distance of forty days from England by mail, a lapse of time which would not seriously interfere with obtaining the authority of the Secretary of State.

27. We append a statement of the whole indebtedness or liability of the country. We have informed the white residents of the amount, and they have declared to us, more or less formally at different places, their willingness to acknowledge their responsibility for it, as well as for the expenses of a future Government.

28. We have been so fortunate as to obtain the assistance of two gentlemen, namely, Mr. Carl L. Sahl, a gentleman connected with mercantile firms in Sydney, and Mr. Thomas Horton, manager of the Fiji Bank, in the investigation of the accounts, and they have given us a report, which we inclose.

29. The greater part of the debt, in fact, almost all, has been contracted for the purposes of the white settlers, and the portion which alone can be set to the account of natives has been used far more for the benefit of the native chiefs (and principally Cakobau) than for that of the actual people. The guarantees for the debt in general are laid upon the revenues of the country, the public lands of the country, and the private lands of the King; and we consider that the contribution of such lands, on the part of Cakobau and others, would be a sufficient share of the guarantee to fall on the natives. They contribute also to the revenue by their labour.

30. The extent of public land is, as will be seen, very small, and the chief security for one portion of the debt is what has been called the private lands of the King, but which are not strictly private. King Cakobau has rights of seignory over them, and is powerful enough to be able to remove and satisfy the population, but it is not more than a powerful lord of the manor. It would neither be just nor wise to allow the mortgagee to foreclose, but if the Crown could purchase any of them hereafter by private agreement it would be advantageous to do so.

31. With regard to the validity of the engagements entered into with the lenders of the money, as much as was borrowed by the issue of debentures was borrowed in due and legal form under an Act of Legislature. The debt to the Fiji Bank was incurred when that bank took up Treasury notes. The whole of the charter to that bank is matter for dispute, inasmuch as there was no power to grant it, and also that the preamble gives as reasons for the illegal power exerted, that which is not fact, however much the framers of that preamble may have believed it to be so. Still we think that the advantages offered to and taken by the Fiji Banking Company, were not so excessive as to invalidate, morally, its claim to confirmation, save and except the exclusive privilege of banking and exemption from taxation, both of which are detrimental to the public interest, and should not be confirmed. The Company is styled "The Fiji Banking and Commercial Company, Limited." As a commercial company or agency it would have power to buy land and import merchandize. There is, therefore, a very strong objection to the latter part of Article 13, which confers to one company or firm the exclusive privilege of exemption from every duty, tax, and impost—a privilege equalled only by that formerly enjoyed by the East India Company.

32. The circumstances connected with the loan of 25,000*l.*, issued at Sydney, which produced 18,500*l.*, should be more fully related, in order that your Lordship may have an opportunity of forming an opinion upon them.

On the 25th July, 1872, a Bill (No. 31), which had been introduced into the Legislative Assembly of Fiji, was passed, empowering Government to contract a loan of 250,000 dollars on pledge of public lands.

In pursuance of an authority given under this Act, Mr. Woods, then Premier, went to Sydney and endeavoured to float the loan. The amount raised was to be used to take up former debentures, to erect public buildings, and to engage in reproductive works. Mr. Woods found it impossible to place more than 125,000 dollars, or 25,000*l.* at 80 to 90 per cent., and could only float that sum by pledging all of what was considered Cakobau's private lands, as well as whatever existed of public land.

The persons who negotiated the loan seem to have had doubts of the freedom of any land to be devoted to such a purpose, and asked certain questions of Mr. Woods, who, on the 7th September, 1872, made the following replies:—

Q. If the proposed security for the loan consists of land, can you show that such land has been specially reserved for such purpose?—*A.* The whole of the public domain is free of liability, saving and excepting 5,000 acres in the island of Ovalau. No lands have yet been sold by the Government of Fiji.

Q. Describe the position and character of such land, with plans and full particulars; also state when and by whom it was surveyed?—*A.* The territory of the Kingdom of Fiji is comprised in seventy-two islands, containing an area of 4,450,000 acres approximately, out of which 800,000 acres are alienated to white corporations and settlers, and 600,000 acres are held privately by His Majesty the King, his Chiefs and people, leaving a balance of over 3,000,000 acres of land,

about 500,000 acres of which consists of barren and unfruitful lands, such as mountainous and rocky, land that cannot be cultivated. The lands have not yet been trigonometrically surveyed; they have been roughly surveyed and examined to test the accuracy of the Admiralty and American surveys, and those surveys were found correct approximately last year by the New Zealand and Admiralty Surveyors, invited by the King and people to proceed there to survey and test the capabilities of the islands.

33. We have requested Mr. Woods to explain to us how he could give the negotiators to understand that large areas of public land existed, over which the security was to extend, and he, in reply, read to us a resolution of the Privy Council (composed at that time of Cakobau and other Chiefs and the white Ministers) which recites that, the Chiefs agree that measures shall be taken to restrict the native occupiers to the lands which they require for cultivation, and that all remaining lands shall pass into the hands of the Government. If any attempt were made, even now, to proceed upon such a resolution, the greatest distress and disturbance would be the result. To proceed upon it would be to revolutionize the country and to attack the best known and most keenly felt right of the Fijians; and the resolution can only be looked upon as an attempt, by a number of white men, looked up to by their native colleagues as supremely wise in these matters, to create a property on paper which did not exist in fact, and could not be created without engaging in unjust war.

But when an attempt was made by the Ministers, through Mr. Woods, to act upon the paper title thus created, another responsibility was incurred.

A case for opinion was submitted to Sir William Manning of Sydney, New South Wales, by the negotiators of the loan, and Sir William Manning gave an opinion of which the following is an extract:—

"The first of Mr. A.'s points is that, he is not aware of the existence of any Crown or Public Lands sufficient and competent to form the subject of the mortgage on public lands which forms part of the securities. This of course depends upon matters of fact upon which I can have no knowledge. But it is clear that if Mr. A. be right, then the Act (No. 17, cap. 2) on the subject of the disposal of the Government lands is a baseless enactment, whilst that (No. 31) by which the loan was authorized, 'on the pledges of such of the public lands as the King might assent to,' was equally baseless, and was a positive snare to the contemplated lenders; and so also the statement made to the lenders by the authority of the Government, as to the existence of large areas of public lands over which the security was to extend, was a falsehood and a delusion."

We cannot do otherwise than concur in Sir William Manning's opinion, and we add that the area of public lands, which is now, after great efforts have been made by the Chiefs, nominally 450,000 acres, was in 1872 only about 10,000 acres, exclusive of 5,000 acres already mortgaged; also that the right and power of Government over this land was by no means undisputed.

34. We now pass to the consideration of the force which would be neccessary to be employed for the preservation of life and protection of property. We have found, in the employment of Government, a force of 750 men under 18 Europeans of all classes. The former are natives of Fiji, with the exception of a few Tongans. They drill and march well, and are stated by Mr. Swanston (late Minister for Native Affairs) and other Europeans who were with them, to have shown courage and steadiness in a mountain campaign last year (1873).

The only purpose for which they are likely to be called into play is to ubdue the remaining mountaineers, and to enforce the payments of taxes. The whole native population is estimated at 140,500, and the mountaineers at 20,000; and the whole force employed last year was 12 to 16 Europeans (officers and volunteers), 160 drilled natives, and from 1,000 to 3,000 auxiliaries. This force was found to be sufficient to pass without a check to the heart of the mountain tribes, with but slight loss, and to capture and burn all the villages they passed.

35. We do not consider that for ordinary purposes a larger force than 300 native police would be required, under 6 Europeans. The necessity for the employment of so large a number as 750 has been urged upon us by the Ministers, who, although they rested their right to govern upon the theory of their being a native Government and the protectors of natives, have yet found it necessary to exhibit military force at the collection of the taxes. This ought to, and would, be unnecessary under a proper Government, and the numbers named above might be

diminished to 300; or, if kept up, would be sufficient for a larger white population employing a much greater number of labourers than at present. Among these it may be expected that crimes would increase with an increase of numbers.

36. The subjugation of the mountaineers and their partial removal to other parts might be a necessity during one of the first years of a Colonial Government, and this would very easily be effected by mustering and drilling about 400 men in November, and giving instructions to the friendly towns furthest inland to provide food by growing extra yams, &c. This force should begin its work in May, and would completely, and with ease, remove all the remaining mountain villages, which are likely to give trouble, in a single short campaign, always supposing that the approach by more friendly methods were rejected. Fijian soldiers, with a small number of Europeans as leaders, would be ample for this purpose. A few of the naval and marine officers on the station could well undertake the command of such a temporary force, and satisfactorily conclude the campaign with a minimum of bloodshed, and, the object being to make the interior secure to future settlers, the expense might be borne by Her Majesty's Government.

37. The cost of the police force of 300 men should not exceed 3,000*l.* a year. Besides the police force it would be well to have two small Colonial vessels for mail and police purposes; and for the first two or three years, one of Her Majesty's schooners would be of great assistance to the Executive for the regulation of the labour traffic. This vessel would be available for visits to the New Hebrides, where twenty to twenty-five English settlers are already established, who have no Consular officer or other supervision.

38. We think that the Commission of the Governor of Fiji should give him authority over the persons and acts of British subjects in the New Hebrides and the Solomon Islands, or the islands of the Pacific south of the equator and west of the meridian of 168° west longitude (except New Caledonia and the Loyalty Islands, which are under the French flag). This would be very satisfactory to Englishmen living in those islands, who would then be able to refer their disputes to the Courts of Fiji, and would be able to register vessels and take out licenses to carry labourers in a regular way, whereas they are now doing so either by stealth or through the fiction of a French flag and registers obtained from New Caledonia.

Your Lordship will remember that the abuses in the labour traffic have taken place through the rapacity of the ship-owner or master, and should not be laid entirely or chiefly to the account of the planters, who, as we have before remarked, treat their labourers, for the most part, kindly.

In the new Hebrides group of islands, labourers are easily hired to go from one island to another, although they cannot be persuaded to work on the island of which they are natives; and a distinct set of licences is required for this inter-island traffic. The experience of the Fijian Colonial local officers would enable them to regulate such a traffic. The formation of a centre of law and order could not fail to have a good influence in this part of the South Seas, where the number of adventurers in various pursuits is yearly increasing; and, in consideration of the duties to be performed by the Executive and Courts of law, some assistance might be given by the Imperial Government to the future Colonial Government of Fiji.

39. We have made the native tenure and ownership of land in Fiji the subject of attentive study; and have obtained from Mr. John B. Thurston, and also from Mr. C. R. Forwood and other gentlemen, explanations and papers on this subject worthy of consideration. These will put before your Lordship the state of native tenures, prior to whites coming here. Purchases have been made from natives to a large extent, as will be seen by an accompanying statement, but there remain still considerable tracts of unoccupied lands, though, as is said with perfect accuracy by Mr. Pritchard, formerly Her Majesty's Consul in Fiji,—

"Every inch of land in Fiji has an owner. Every parcel or tract of land has a name, and the boundaries are defined and well-known. The proprietorship rests in families, the heads of families being the representatives of the title. Every member of a family can use the land attaching to the family. Thus the heads of families are the nominal owners; the whole family are the actual occupiers. The family land maintains the whole family, and the members maintain the head of the family."*

40. In order to make a purchase secure and beyond the possibility of dispute, present customs would require the assembly of the following persons, viz.:—The great Chief or his representative, the lesser Chiefs, and the principal men of the

* Pritchard's "Polynesian Reminiscences," page 242: 1866. Chapman and Hall: London.

adjacent town. These should walk over the land, define it, and conclude the sale on the spot. The natives should then build a house or plant yams for the purchaser, in recognition of his lordship over the soil.

The strict value of the rights of each party to this agreement varies according to the power of the Chiefs in different parts of the group. In some places the Chief would be strong enough to make the sale alone, and to give possession to a foreigner, receiving all the purchase money and removing the natives by force to other lands; but, in general, as things now stand, if the purchaser were to deal with the great Chief alone, he would only buy his rights as lord of the manor, or whatever they might be, and would not acquire exclusive possession of the soil.

On the other hand, were he to purchase from the people without consulting the superior Chief, he would not be recognized by the latter, who would probably try to sell over his head.

Since the formation of the Government here in 1871, regulations for the issue of Crown grants have been made and acted upon. Mr. Thurston has asked that the Crown grants already issued may be confirmed, but we are of opinion that each case should be examined afresh on its own merits. Apart from the question of the legality of these Crown grants, which is more than doubtful, we know of the issue of a Crown grant on very disputable grounds. Not more than twenty such grants have been issued.

41. We are informed by the existing Government that at one of the early meetings of the Chiefs in Council after the formation of the present Government, a resolution was agreed to by which all the natives were to be gradually confined within limits of land sufficient for their support, and that all lands outside these limits were to be considered Government property; but nothing has followed this resolution. We mention it again because we wish to point out the dangers which would have resulted had it been carried into effect. To interfere with the possession of land in this way would be to attack one of the oldest and best understood rights of the natives, and would entail the prosecution of a most unjust war.

No Chief had either the right or power to dispose of the lands of the lesser Chiefs and people without their consent, in this wholesale fashion. It is true that much of the land is uncultivated and unoccupied; but, of course, the natives who could show just claim to it have a right to its disposal. The only sense in which the resolution above referred to could be acted upon would be the following, and that only in future years: namely, that after a liberal appropriation of land to a town or village, a small tax should be laid on the unoccupied remainder laid claim to, with the option of selling to Government on valuation, and this could only be done, if the same principle were applied to the unoccupied land of white proprietors.

Many portions of land now claimed by whites are still held on doubtful tenure, and are in dispute, either with natives or with other whites, and these doubts arise either from the incomplete manner in which the purchase was first made by whites, or from the very incomplete survey taken of the islands when the purchases were made; there being some instances in which the purchase was made from the wrong persons, and others in which the title deeds of adjacent properties set forth that their boundaries extend along lines drawn at right angles to the shore. Thus where the shore is irregular, a segment, common to both properties, is included in each title deed.

42. Hence it will be evident that the first step in the land policy of a Colonial Government, will be the accurate survey of the islands; and we suggest that the hydrographic portion should be completed by Her Majesty's Government, if the local Government undertakes the cadastral survey.

45. Replying then to the questions which your Lordship has proposed to us.

Q. (1.) Whether the title to land is fully vested in the King and Chiefs?—*A.* The title to the land is not fully vested in the King and Chiefs.

Q. (2.) Whether there are any tribal rights or local customs which affect or limit their power to grant and dispose of it?—*A.* Their power is limited by custom, though the limits have often been disregarded where a powerful chief has been offered a sufficient inducement by an European, as well as in course of native customs and *vasus*.

Q. (3.) Whether it is proposed that unalienated land shall be absolutely surrendered to the Queen, or shall continue to remain in the hands of its native owners until conveyed to private purchasers?—*A.* It is proposed that certain land shall be conveyed to the Queen, but that all other land should remain in the hands of the native owners until private purchasers, or the Crown itself, become the possessors

in the mode we have above indicated for future consideration. It would be most desirable that no purchase should take place from natives, but through the intervention of the Crown, as in New Zealand.

Q. (4.) On what terms and conditions is land now occupied or owned by white settlers?—*A.* For the most part, the land held by white settlers has been purchased. But there are exceptions to this rule, in case of land which is called the private property of Cakobau himself, and also in the case of the land under authority of Maafu in the Windward Islands. This is held by Europeans on long leases of forty to fifty years.

Q. (5.) What proportion of the land in the islands is in such occupation, and what amount remains available for future settlement?—*A.* The proportion of land in the possession of whites is given in an inclosed Schedule, which we have had corrected from a Table prepared by the Government. Most of the best lands have, of course, been already secured, though not all cultivated; but there remain large areas of good soil, fit for coffee, cottton, sugar, &c., in the hands of natives, in addition to the large acreage of first-class land conveyed to Europeans, but uncleared (as shown in Schedule), much of which would be sold, on annexation, to clear the remainder from encumbrance, and to obtain capital for renewed enterprise.

45. We can add nothing to the excellent Report of Dr. Seemann on the capabilities of the soil. His predictions have been amply fulfilled by experience.

The natives have cultivated nothing but their own food and a few necessaries for centuries past, but Europeans have grown cotton with success, until the heavy fall in price, which has reduced many of them to absolute poverty, and has prevented their embarking in new industries.

A single sample of ten tons of sugar has been produced and sent to Australia, and two mills are now being erected, three more having been ordered. Every planter is making an experiment of a small acreage of cane, of which there are several indigenous varieties of good quality; and men who have experience of cane-growing in Queensland and in the West Indies, have pronounced a very favourable opinion on the quality of the Fijian cane. There can be no doubt whatever that sugar will be the chief industry of the best lands of Viti Levu, Taviuni, and Vanua Levu, while cotton remains the staple produce of the Windward and smaller islands.

We have been assured by representatives of good houses in Sydney, that they are prepared to advance money to planters for the cultivation of sugar, and to erect crushing-mills immediately, if it were known that the Government would be taken by Her Majesty. On the other hand, we are assured by many planters that, if the country be not annexed, they will not obtain advances, and will be obliged to leave the islands.

46. Your Lordship will observe that though a large area of land (854,956 acres) is owned by whites, yet only 16,524 acres are under cultivation. This cultivation employs a population of 1,500 whites, and, therefore, we may suppose that if the whole were under cultivation, about 25,000 whites would be employed, and that the labourers, all or nearly all of whom must be imported from other parts, would increase to 200,000 or 250,000.

The lands not yet cleared include a great portion of the very finest soil, both on the Reiva River and also on Taviuni, admirably fitted for sugar-plantations; also other land well adapted for coffee and spices.

47. In connection with this subject we have considered the possibility of an English population retaining a healthy condition in these islands. We inclose a report by Dr. A. B. Messer, Staff Surgeon of Her Majesty's ship "Pearl," by which it will be seen that there is at present no disease in the islands, except dysentery, which, in many cases, is distinctly traceable to the influence of insufficient animal food and immoderate use of spirits. Families of British subjects are numerous, and although it cannot be said that children are so strong as in more temperate climates, yet they are healthy. Many settlers follow their employment as planters, overseers, and labourers all day in the open air, but we have not heard of a case of heat apoplexy.

48. Tables of shipping and commerce, made out in the Government offices, are appended to this Report.

49. We have nothing to add to the statements previously made to Her Majesty's Government, and published in England, on the subject of the claim of the United States against King Cakobau—a claim which was unfairly

made and unfairly pressed, and which has led to speculations of a questionable character.

50. The Melbourne Association, called the Polynesia Land Company, has been put in possession of 90,000 acres of, not the best, but, generally speaking, fair land. It claims 110,000 acres more.

A copy of a Charter from King Cakobau to the agents of the Company is inclosed, together with a resolution of the Cabinet.

It appears by published papers that the promoters of the scheme were fully warned by Mr. Thurston, then Acting British Consul, of the inability of Cakobau to carry out the engagement which he entered into with them, and of the futility of his promises. It seems fair, however, that the subscribers of the 9,000*l.*, which was actually paid to Cakobau, should not lose, and that a Commission should settle, by arbitration, the amount of land to be handed over to complete what is due to the company. Very little of the land given to it is as yet occupied.

If about 20,000 acres of fair land were handed over in addition to that already held, we think that the actual subscribers would probably be fairly remunerated, though it is, we think, a matter on which only a duly qualified Commission should pronounce an opinion.

The whole of this matter, that is, the Polynesia Land Company, has been treated of in the Report of Colonel Smythe, in an excellent article on Fiji by Captain Hope, R.N., in "Blackwood's Magazine" for July, 1869, and in an Appendix to "Fiji and the Fijians," by the Rev. James Calvert, Wesleyan Missionary.*

It is impossible that there can be a second opinion as to the injustice of the claim of citizens of the United States to the sum of 9,000*l.* exacted from Cakobau.

51. With regard to the imposition of a land tax, we find that taxes on land have already been levied and assented to, those lately in force being 10 per cent. on assessed annual value of lands of absentees, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on assessed annual value of lands of residents. But we should add that, with a scattered group of islands such as this, it would meet the wishes of residents, and seem just that all taxes on cleared lands should be local, and for the maintenance of local public works, all of which should be under local boards; and that the tax on uncleared land alone should go to the general Treasury. The tax on uncleared lands would thus decrease as the prosperity of the country increased, and would merely be an inducement to holders to sell their land to those who intend to be actual occupiers. The land tax could not be reckoned on as a large contribution to the public revenue.

52. Your Lordship has particularly directed us to ascertain and point out what position the Chiefs would hold if the Islands were brought under the British Government.

We have made very lengthened explanations to Cakobau and others of the native Chiefs, and have ascertained, both from themselves and from independent whites well acquainted with their habits and modes of thought, especially Mr. Thurston, what their real wishes would be.

We inclose a statement of those expectations, made out by Mr. Thurston in the names of the Chiefs. The latter understand little or nothing of these matters and of amounts of money, nor do they, nor can they foresee the effect which the advent of a Colonial Government and the increase of foreign population will produce on the old native customs and respect paid to them.

The Chiefs are obliged to trust their future to Her Majesty's Government (in Cakobau's own words to us, "He trusts in the generosity and justice of Her Majesty's Government"), and they ask white advisers to help them to secure their interests, which, in this matter, Mr. Thurston has faithfully represented.

The old position of the great body of natives towards their Chiefs is one of undefined serfdom, moderated by certain customs. A Chief has food brought to him and to his followers, and has always been accustomed to exact contributions of mats, oil, &c., from those who look to him as their head. These contributions, which are necessarily vexatious because uncertain and arbitrary, have been and are still made at the present time, and are greatly valued by the Chiefs as, perhaps, the greatest proof of superiority they can show. We have endeavoured to explain to them that this could not be allowed to continue in force under a British Governor, but we doubt whether our assurances are either fully believed or under-

* "Fiji and the Fijians," by James Calvert: 1870. Hodder and Stoughton, 29, Paternoster Row.

stood. The idea is still new to them, and it is certain that the system can only be altered for one of direct salaries very gradually.

Any abrupt general change in this direction would weaken the authority of the Chiefs who are now, and should be for some time to come, the rulers of their own people under the Central Government.

The old system should, in short, be allowed to exist on sufferance, unacknowledged, but, except in the case of extreme exactions, not interfered with. To abolish it would be to take away the foundation of social order. It will die out as the European population increases.

53. There can be no doubt that, of necessity, the authority and ease of a Chief's position must vanish unless he is utilized in the administration of the Government of the natives, and that, even when he is thus made use of, he will gradually lose many of his old privileges.

From this point of view it does not seem to us that the sums asked for the Chiefs, which may at first seem large, are excessive.

It is certain that they must gradually lose their customary tribute, and unless there be something to replace this, which is of great value as being such a forcible and evident proof of chieftainship, their authority must suffer.

54 In explanation of the item of 1,000*l.* asked for Cakobau to purchase a vessel, we may explain, that two vessels which he once possessed have been lately wrecked, and that it is his great desire to have another, as he alone of all the higher Chiefs is without one.

55. We think that the continuance of 2,000*l.* a year to Cakobau's successor, should be contingent on his doing the duties of native Governor of Viti Levu.

56. The white persons referred to in this stipulation for compensation are (1st) Mr. C. St. Julian, the present Chief Justice. He was formerly law reporter for the "Sydney Morning Herald," in Sydney, and was specially invited to come here on assurance of an income of 750*l.* a-year. He was not educated for the bar. We do not think it would be advisable to retain him in his post, but we think that on account of his services, and as he cannot return to his former position in Sydney, he is entitled to some consideration: (2nd) Mr. T. H. Garrick, Associate Judge of the Supreme Court, has been regularly called to the bar. He was invited to come here on assurance of a salary. He might be advantageously employed under Government, but we do not think he has any claim to compensation if not so employed, beyond a fair allowance for loss of time in seeking other employment.

57. Your Lordship will observe that there is no mention made in this paper (Appendix No. 2) of Maafu, who was, and is still, the Chief of the Windward Islands, and it is necessary here to explain the omission.

Maafu, as your Lordship may be aware, is a Tongan Chief, who came to Fiji about 1848, and who has by tact and force made himself master of the windward part of the group. There can be no doubt that had it not been for the influence of whitemen, and for the direct interposition of the foreign Consuls and ships of war, Maafu would, before this, have been the principal, if not the sole, Chief of Fiji.

His rule in his own district is more absolute than that of any other Chief, and he shows greater ability than others in governing his people, as well as in the management of his property.

The Fijian Chiefs have always been jealous of his influence and position. They sought to make use of British influence to get rid of him in 1862, and are now again most desirous of having him turned out of the country, thinking no doubt that they will be able to make use of our presence here to do so.* In his own district, however, he is greatly looked up to and is not disliked by the lesser Chiefs; and he is respected and liked by the white planters.

Some time since we explained to Mr. Thurston, as King Cakobau's adviser, that Her Majesty's Government could only look upon those people as Chiefs whom they found actually exercising authority as such, and there can be no doubt that Maafu is a Chief, and the undisputed Chief, of the Windward group of islands.

He was not present at the signature of the document containing the offer of cession, as he had quitted Levuka before the offer was made; but he had already given us a paper, confirming his spoken wish and opinion that the islands should be offered to Great Britain.

We think that he would be the proper person to retain in the position of Chief of Lau, or the Windward group, though he has not attempted to make terms for himself.

* See "Selman's Mission to Fiji," chap. xv.

He has hitherto been in nominal receipt of 800*l.* a year, and has probably made much more than that by contributions from natives. We think that he should receive as much as Ratu Abel or Tui Cakau, if an English collector and magistrate be appointed to assist him.

Ulu Lakeba, the Chief named in Mr. Thurston's paper accompanying the offer of cession, is simply a Chief of the Island of Lakeba, and has acted hitherto, under Maafu, against whom he dares not do anything.

It is true that Maafu is a Tongan and a stranger, and that he did not inherit his land, but acquired it by force, stratagem, and judicious alliances; but, except that Cakobau is a Fijian, and therefore of the same blood as the rest of the people, his position in, and claims over, the Yasawas or Leeward group are no better than those of Maafu over the Windward islands.

It would please the Fijian Chiefs to see Maafu expelled, but the rights of the latter in Lau are as good as many of theirs elsewhere, and his personal government of his own portion of the group is much more real and evident than that of any other Chief in Fiji.

58. The system under which the local Government is at present carried on in the provinces is the following: It does not seem to have contemplated doing more than the collection of taxes, and the rough administration of justice.

The islands, up to the beginning of this year, were divided into twelve provinces, and in each province a native Chief was appointed as Governor, with an European Secretary. The Secretary received 200*l.* a-year, and the Governor (contingent on his getting in all his native taxes,) was to get 300*l.* a-year. An unpaid warden of each province was appointed from among the white planters, many of whom were made Justices of the Peace and sat on the bench with native colleagues.

About January last the Government endeavoured to establish Commissioners with more complete control over the districts than the wardens had had; these Commissioners were to be paid 300*l.* to 400*l.* a-year. They were to have complete civil and military control over natives and foreigners, and to hold a Court assisted by a native colleague.

We do not think this scheme advisable or necessary with the present limited population. We consider that the establishment of a stipendiary Magistrate in the more thickly populated districts, and the renewal of the issue of Commissions of the Peace to white planters in other parts, would be sufficient for the maintenance of order.

59. Your Lordship has asked for a statement of the moral condition of the native population, and has adverted to the crime which existed at the time of Colonel Smythe's report. The improvement since that time has been very great indeed. Of the 140,500 which constitutes the outside limit of the native population, 120,000 have lotued, namely, professed a wish to become Christians and have accepted a Christian teacher. They are docile and fairly intelligent, and are physically stout, well-built men, of larger frames than the inhabitants of the New Hebrides or Solomon Islands, and quite equal, if not superior, to the inhabitants of the groups of islands to the eastward. There can be no fear whatever of a collision between them and white planters. Among these the practices of cannibalism, strangulation of widows, and infanticide, have wholly ceased. Among the Kai Colos, or mountain tribes, who are variously stated as numbering 10,000 to 20,000 people, it is believed that these practices still continue, though there are some families who have never, from time immemorial, followed the custom of eating human flesh. The Kai Colos are confined to the mountains of Viti Levu only.

Our estimates of numbers have been taken from Missionary sources. The Chairman of the Wesleyan Mission Board, the Rev. Frederick Langham, who has very kindly assisted us on several occasions, has told us that the returns of attendants at church worship number 113,000. These returns, which are sent in by native ministers and teachers, are in fact a census, as every person in a "lotued" town goes to church, and every woman takes her child. The estimate arrived at from this source is the same as that given us by Mr. Thurston, and appears more definite and exact than could be expected.

60. We cannot speak of the Missionary body, which has laboured for some thirty-eight years among these people, without recording our admiration of the zeal, intrepidity, and devotion which have characterized their work here. It is to the influence of their teaching that the great progress which we have recorded is due. We have visited the schools and training institutions which they have established, and have found them to be thoroughly well-conducted and adapted to

their purpose. We have been informed that it is intended to erect a school for sons of Chiefs, in connection with the training institution at Navuloa, and we heartily commend such an establishment to the protection of the future Colonial Government, should Her Majesty think fit to accept the cession now made.

61. The estimate of the numbers of Kai Colos is a very uncertain one, and we believe it to have been over-estimated. The Rev. Mr. Langham thinks that they may number about 7,000. These tribes are scattered, have continual quarrels with each other, and are not in the smallest degree dangerous, although their depredations might become annoying. They have been very rarely visited by white men. We have before pointed out that they should be visited by an armed force and should be summoned to "soro," or give in their allegiance to the Government, and that teachers should be sent among them.

62. We may mention here that, during 1873, some of these Kai Colos were taken prisoners, were tried for treason and rebellion, and, after being sentenced to penal servitude for periods of from three to seven years, were offered to planters as labourers, under certain regulations, for a hire which was to be paid to Government. This was considered by Commodore Goodenough as a form of slavery, and he issued warning to British subjects, which stopped the hiring of these men. They remain as prisoners in various districts, living in temporary huts; and allotments of land, on which they can build and plant, must be found for them, as it might be unsafe for them to return to their own villages. They number about 1,000 men, women, and children.

Under old native customs such prisoners as these would have been allotted to the victorious party as domestic slaves for life. Under this Government they have been allotted to work for a fixed period as field hands.

63. Commodore Goodenough has sent to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty a chart of the Fiji Islands, upon which all the latest information has been collected by Navigating-Lieutenant Henry Hosken, of Her Majesty's ship "Pearl;" the emendations to the hydrography having been taken from his own observations and those of Mr. Cox, commanding the Wesleyan Missionary vessel "Jubilee;" and the greater part of the topography from a map constructed by Mr. J. B. Thurston, from his own observations. We have shown upon this chart the places we have visited, and we request that copies of it may be appended to this report when the chart is printed.

64. We have now given replies to the questions put prominently forward in our instructions; and, in conclusion, we beg to assure your Lordship that we can see no prospect for these islands, should Her Majesty's Government decline to accept the offer of cession, but ruin to the English planters and confusion in the native Government.

As a Crown Colony, we think that Fiji would certainly become a prosperous Settlement.

In addition to the great advantages of soil and climate which we have enumerated, the geographical position of Fiji has caused it to be chosen as a place of rendezvous for the steamers performing the mail service from California to New Zealand and New South Wales.

With the single exception of the beautiful and fertile island of Tavinui, the coasts abound in secure and admirable harbours, well known to the residents, and only requiring the continuation of an accurate survey to make them accessible to strangers.

We have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

humble Servants,

(Signed) JAMES C. GOODENOUGH, *Captain and Commodore 2nd Class, Commanding Australian Station.*

E. L. LAYARD, *Her Majesty's Consul for Fiji and Tonga.*

To the Right Hon. the Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

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Appendix.

No. 1.

(Translation.)

On board Her Majesty's ship "Pearl," Levuka, March 21, 1874.

To Commodore Goodenough, and Consul Layard, the two Chiefs sent out by Her Britannic Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, to visit Fiji.

We, with the Chiefs of Fiji, have thought over your letter, which was brought to us by Mr. Thurston, on the 2nd day of the month of January; and after thinking the matter over, I now say to you, Sirs, that it is our minds to give the Government of our Kingdom to the Lady the Queen of Great Britain; and let the document I told Mr. Thurston some time ago to prepare, be conformed to as document of promises to us.

This is the extent, Sirs, of my words to you.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CAKOBAU R.

(Signed) HENRY S. MILNE, *Private Secretary.*
JOHN B. THURSTON.

(Translation from the Fiji "Gazette.")

The "Pearl," Levuka, March 21, 1874.

To Commodore Goodenough, and Mr. Consul Layard, the Commissioners of the Queen of Britain.

We, and the Chiefs of Fiji. We have reconsidered your letter, which was brought, Sirs, to us by Mr. Thurston, on the 2nd of January last. And we now tell you, Sirs, that we desire to cede the Government of our Kingdom to the Queen of Britain, and that the document which I formerly told Mr. Thurston to prepare, be the agreement of the cession.

This is all, Sirs, we have to say to you.

(Signed) CAKOBAU R.

(Countersigned) HENRY T. MILNE, *Private Secretary.*
J. B. THURSTON.

No. 2.

Gentlemen, *Chief Secretary's Department, Fiji, April* 11, 1874.

IN accordance with the tenor of the King's letter to you, signed on board Her Majesty's ship "Pearl," upon the 21st ultimo, and with his commands to me, I beg to inclose the conditions upon which His Majesty—for himself and people—offers to cede the Government of his Kingdom to Her Britannic Majesty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN B. THURSTON, *Chief Secretary.*

Commodore J. G. Goodenough, R.N.,
Commanding the Australian Station;
Edgar Leopold Layard, Esq.,
Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, Fiji and Tonga.

Offered Cession of the Kingdom of Fiji to Her Britannic Majesty.—Conditions thereof.

Article 1. King Cakobau to retain for life the designation of Tui Viti, and a pension of 2,000*l.* sterling per annum, payable at such times annually as may be directed by Her Britannic Majesty's Government.

The said pension (but not the designation) to be continued to and during the life of the eldest of King Cakobau's three sons, Epeli, Timoci, and Iosefa, who may survive him (the King), and after the death of such elder surviving son to the elder of the said remaining sons, or to either of them as may be then surviving for his life; and if, after the death of such last named of the King's sons, the youngest of the three shall still be living, then to such youngest son for his life.

On the day of cession Her Britannic Majesty's Government to give King Cakobau, or his survivor as above provided, the sum of 1,000*l.* sterling for the purchase of a vessel.

Art. 2. The last Article not to be affected by the death of King Cakobau before Her Britannic Majesty acquires (if the offer of cession is accepted) the sovereignty of Fiji.

Art. 3. In the event of the death of King Cakobau before cession, his eldest son and heir, Ratu Epeli Nalatikaio, to be the Chief with whom Her Britannic Majesty shall conclude the cession of Fiji, as herewith offered.

Art. 4. The King's heir, Ratu Epeli Nalatikaio, to be the chief native executive officer over the Island of Viti Levu, and the adjacent Islands of Kadavu and Yasawas, subject to such future arrangements or changes as may, from time to time, be found necessary, with an annual allowance of 400*l.* sterling per annum.

Art. 5. Ratu Golea Tui Cakau to be the chief native executive officer over the Islands of Vanua Levu, Taviuni, and adjacent islands, subject to such future arrangements or changes as may, from time to time, be found necessary, with an annual allowance of 400*l.* sterling per annum.

Art. 6. Ratu Tevita-Ulu-i-Lakeba to be the chief native executive officer in the Province of Lau (as now defined), with an annual allowance of 300*l.* sterling per annum.

Art. 7. Ratu Savenaca to be the chief native executive officer in the Province of Central Fiji (as now defined), with an annual allowance of 300*l.* sterling per annum.

Art. 8. The following minor Chiefs to receive an annual allowance of 200*l.*, and to be the subordinate executive officers in their respective districts:—

The Chief of Rewa.
The Chief of Naitasiri.
The Chief of Nadroga.
The Chief of Tai Levu.
The Chief of Kadavu.
The Chief of Rakiraki.
The Chief of Ba and Yasawa.
The Chief of Bua.
The Chief of Macuata.

The following Chiefs to receive 100*l.* annually:—

The Chief of Namosi.
The Chief of Serua.

Every Chief hereinbefore written to be succeeded, upon death or removal from office, by his next of kin as hereafter provided.

Art. 9. Every native executive officer to draw the aforesaid allowances contingent upon the actual performance, in respect to Fijians, of the duties confided to him. Should any high native officer be removed from his post, his place to be filled by the next man of his family entitled to succeed him by Fijian law or customs.

Art. 10. The Government of Her Britannic Majesty to concede and preserve to the Chiefs and people of Fiji, under any form of British Government, an equitable share in the Councils of State, and, in the event of Fiji becoming a Crown Colony, to appoint not less than four Fijian Chiefs to seats in the Executive Council.

The Government of Her Britannic Majesty to confirm to the heirs of Fijian Chiefs the succession to the emoluments and official rank of such Chiefs, provided always that such heirs are capable of fulfilling the duties pertaining to such official rank.

Art. 11. In the event of Her Britannic Majesty accepting the offered cession of Fiji, the Judges of the Supreme Court, holding commissions during good behaviour under His Fijian Majesty, to be compensated, according to the principles adopted in British Colonies, in similar cases for loss of position, and being so compensated to have no claim to office under Her Britannic Majesty. On the other hand such functionaries or any of them shall not be bound to accept office if offered. In the event of accepting office the past services of such officers, under His Fijian Majesty, to be counted as service under Her Britannic Majesty's Government, and to be so reckoned in any future regulations for retiring allowances under British Colonial Government.

Art. 12. The Government of Her Britannic Majesty to assume the existing financial liabilities of Fiji, as stated in Schedule A.

Art. 13. The Charter granted by His Fijian Majesty, under the Order in Council, dated the 19th of August, 1873, to the Fiji Banking and Commercial Company, Limited, to be confirmed; and also all other contracts made or concluded by His Fijian Majesty, or his Government, excepting that with the Company known as the Polynesian Company of Melbourne, Victoria, the final settlement of which contract shall (in the event of cession), be assumed by Her Britannic Majesty's Government.

Art. 14. All Crown grants issued before the date of cession, to be of the same validity as grants of Her Britannic Majesty, or her Representative, after cession.

Art. 15. The broad principle to be accepted that, the Fijian Chiefs and people, in changing their allegiance retain all existing private rights, real and personal.

Art. 16. The Ruling Chief of every tribe to be recognized as the owner of the lands of his tribe, and guardian of their rights and interests.*

The people of the tribe to be recognized as tenants of tribal lands, with hereditary right of occupation; subject always to rental obligations, which shall and may be accepted by the Chief in money, labour, or kind, as may be agreed between Chief and people.

Art. 17. The offer of King Cakobau herewith made to cede the Kingdom of Fiji to Her Britannic Majesty, shall remain open for a period of twelve months from the date of the offer being made, but no longer.

Art. 18. In consideration of the acceptance by Her Britannic Majesty of the foregoing conditions, His Majesty King Cakobau offers to cede and transfer to Her Britannic Majesty the full and absolute sovereignty of Fiji, with all its rights and privileges, maritime and territorial.

Art. 19. The Government of King Cakobau will transfer to Her Britannic Majesty the Crown lands and other assets, as set forth in Schedule B.

By command,
(Signed) JOHN B. THURSTON.

Compared with counterpart,
(Signed) CHARLES ST. JULIAN, *C.J., Chancellor of Fiji.*

SCHEDULE (A).

	£	s.	d.
Liabilities of the Fijian Government, as estimated by Messrs. Thomas Norton and Carl L. Sahl, upon 16th March, 1874	87,145	9	2
Deduct	1,291	1	4
	85,854	7	10

Note by Commodore Goodenough.

The mortgage on the Levoni lands having been foreclosed, the sum of 1,291*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* has to be deducted from this debt.

SCHEDULE (B).

MEMORANDUM of National or Crown Lands in Fiji, estimated by Mr. Thurston at a Conference with the King, Chiefs, and Mr. R. S. Swanston.

Viria and neighbourhood, with part of Tai Vugali	60,000
Upper Navua, Batiwai	10,000
Mogodro and Ba-i-colo	300,000
Wai-nu-nu-Vanua, Levu	30,000
† Nadroga and Kadavu	10,000
Carkandrovi (at Natuva Bay)	10,000
South Viti Levu (west of Suva)..	20,000
‡ Lau	10,000
Total	450,000

The Government buildings and the lands pertaining thereto at Nasova Bay, Levurka, upon the Island of Ovalau:—

The Government printing plant;

The provincial court-house, gaol, and the inclosed reserve, known as Totogo, situate within the municipality of Levuka;

All vessels, boats, furniture, and material of every description, in use or possession of the Legislature, Judicial, and Executive branches of the Government;

All military stores as per return annexed.

[Plan of Land at Nasova.]

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* This sentence is specially referred to in a Memorandum attached.

† These lands are claims purchased from Maafu. Title and area doubtful.

‡ These lands have been estimated by Mr. R. S. Swanston, some time Secretary to the Lau Confederation.

RETURN of Arms, Ammunition, &c., in Use and in Store, April 9, 1874.

Description, &c.	In Use.	In Store.	Total Number or Amount.	Estimated Value. £ s. d.
Terry rifles .. at 20*s.* each	7	4	11	11 0 0
Spencer ,, .. 80*s.* ,,	..	1	1	4 0 0
Snider ,, .. 80*s.* ,,	19	5	24	96 0 0
Sharp's carbines .. 20*s.* ,,	..	9	9	9 0 0
Vic. A. C. rifles .. 20*s.* ,,	4	34	38	38 0 0
Henry ,, .. 80*s.* ,,	..	1	1	4 0 0
Enfield ,, .. 50*s.* ,,	100	11	111	277 10 0
Musket, percussion .. 10*s.* ,,	884	66	950	475 0 0
,, flint .. 2*s.* ,,	..	189	189	18 18 0
Revolvers .. .. 15*s.* ,,	37	..	37	27 15 0
Terry carbines .. 40*s.* ,,	9	11	20	40 0 0
Ball cartridge .. 50*s.* per 1,000	..	35,000	35,000	87 10 0
Enfield ,, .. 80*s.* ,,	..	8,000	8,000	32 0 0
Terry ,, .. 80*s.* ,,	..	1,700	1,700	6 16 0
P. F. revolver cartridge 120*s.* ,,	..	4,500	4,500	27 0 0
Gunpowder . .. 3*s.* per lb.	..	182 lbs.	182 lbs.	27 6 0
Percussion caps .. 5*s.* per 1,000	..	52,000	52,000	13 0 0
Chinese frocks .. 5*s.* each	..	51	51	12 15 0
Iron pots .. .. 15*s.* ,,	28	1	29	21 15 0
Belts, pouches, &c.	..	..	..	100 0 0
Lead .. .. 4*d.* per lb.	..	380 lbs.	380 lbs.	6 6 8
Scales .. .. 1 5*l.*, 1 1*l.*	..	2 pr.	2 pr.	6 0 0
Total				1,341 11 8

(Signed) FRED. P. BLACKMORE, *Captain Commanding.*

Nasova, April 9, 1874.
(Signed) JOHN B. THURSTON, *Chief Secretary.*

Memorandum (in connection with Article 16 *of Terms of Cession) upon the Ownership of Land in Fiji.*

THE ownership of land in Fiji, whether absolute or qualified, is based upon well settled law or custom, in some matters of minor detail alone is this law or custom obscure. Since the advent of Europeans, Fijian customs have been slowly altering, old ideas and usages have undergone important changes, and in no respect have they changed so much as in the relations existing between the Chief and his people.

It is possible that the rapidity of future changes—if not moderated—may demolish the very basis of Fijian civic, or social, polity, before the principles of modern civilization can be understood by the native mind. The controlling power of the Chief will be broken down, causing regret and discontent upon his part, while the common people freed from the only restraining power they have been taught to recognize, will indulge largely in the luxury of idleness, and become useless, perhaps, troublesome.

This possible result may be avoided by continuing the relations at present existing between the Chiefs and people in connection with the lands.

Qali Ngali. The people of Fiji are divided into matanitus and qalis. The matanitu is sub-divided into qalis, the qali being subject to its particular Chief, who with their people are subject to their Superior Chief, the head of the matanitu, the head of the tribe.

From long and careful inquiry, I am of opinion that the people hold their lands from Superior Chiefs, that is to say, from their father or their gods (see note) under a feudal system that has existed from time immemorial.

The principle of this system recognizes the Supreme Chief as the grantor of land and leaves the usufruct only (subject to certain conditions) in the hands of the grantee, *i.e.*, Qali Chiefs and people.

In proof of this conclusion we have before us certain evident facts. All qalis owe either military or domestic service to their Lord or Chief. The former are known as Batis = Mbati, their service is purely military, and they enjoy special privileges among the people.

Tankei possessor. The qali-tankei are most likely families of whom the head is descended from a branch of the ruling Chief's own family, or in some cases a petty tribe formerly independent, but unable to so maintain itself amidst the convulsions of barbaric life (which is one of treachery and warfare) has been compelled to seek the protection of some powerful Chief. It commended itself to some such Chief by voluntary submission, the payment of tribute, and render of personal service.

Qali lewe ni kuro. The qali lewe ni kuro are the descendents generally of common people who have been placed upon conquered lands; lands from which the original occupants have been driven beyond hope of return, or, have been wholly exterminated.

The man of this qali is a mere "villein appurtenant," his duty is to plant food for himself and family, but above all for his Chief. He has charge of his Chief's cattle, pigs, and poultry, and thus provides daily food for the Chief's household, or, when ordered to do so, the materials for a public feast.

In return he is protected from aggression, and receives a share of the property presented by other qalis to his master. He may also rightfully use all the land he requires, or can cultivate, so long as he

renders the domestic services assigned to him, but he may also be removed from the land by the exercise of the power that placed him there.

This last condition is not unlike that of the Saxon ceorl described by Palgrave. He and the land might be the subject of gift or bequest; but any such gift (as that of North Vanua Balavu by Tui Kilakila to Maafu) was, in effect, the disposition of the land with the ceorl, and the services the ceorl performed for the land, the person of the ceorl was not the subject of such gift, but only his services. North Vanua Balavu.

The people of Bureta, upon the island of Ovalau, for example, are "lewe ni kuro," kitchen men, whose duty it is to find food for the ruling Chief in return for the occupation of land. Bureta.

Other families of the tribe or, more properly, other qalis, which is an association of families, present mats, earthen pots, salt, native cloth, &c., in return for their occupation.

When a Caboro-thamboro is made by any qali, its mata or herald lays hands upon the offering and says, addressing the Chief: "Mo yalo vinaka, mo taura ogo, keimarni kila ni lailai. Ja ke lailai ko kemarni na knai kuri ko kemarni. Mo yalo vinaku mo taura ogo me taura tiko na nomu vanua;" the meaning of which is: Be favourably disposed (to us), accept this. We know it is little. But if it is little we are the increasers.* Be favourably disposed (to us), accept this, that we may continue to occupy your land. Caboro presentation.

Should an independent tribe be conquered, the defeated Chief, in his extremity, will send a basket of earth to the victor, thus offering to cede his full undoubted right as Chief and father of his tribe. If accepted, the vanquished are spared, and, thenceforward, hold their lands under a new lord.

All these well established customs point to the fact that the lands belong to the head or ruling Chief of the tribe, and are held by his subordinate Chiefs or vassals subject to a service called "lala."

This "lala" is equivalent to rent, and if properly rendered, involves no wrong or unjust principle. If used despotically, it becomes "vakasaurara," or tyranny. The one is a recognized right or obligation of Chief and people respectively, the other is not recognized, and, in time, produces upon Fijians the same results as tyranny does among other people,—conspiracy and rebellion, with secret murder or open war.

When by loan or gift, sub-infeudation occurred under the old Fijian laws, the ruling Chief lost none of his seignorial rights, there existed an unwritten law quite as good as the statute "quid emptores."

Thus, many years ago, before Fiji was known to Europeans, a number of Malayo-Polynesians drifted to the Island of Nairai.

They are supposed to have been Tongans, are known to this day as "Kai Wai Tonga," which, perhaps, means, men from Tongan water or Tongan sea.

The Chief at that time ruling at Bau, gave these people land at Na Korobamba (Nairai Island) and they were adopted by, or amalgamated with the tribe, as many other bands of Tongan or Samoan refugees have been adopted. The "kai wai Tonga" took wives, rendered service to the Chief for their lands, and became subject to the "patria potestas" as absolutely as if they had been natural born Fijians, and so their descendants remain to the present time.

White men were "adopted" in the early days of their settlement, either for the sake of the wealth they brought to the tribe as petty traders, for the personal use they were to the Chiefs as mechanics, or for the aid of their superior craft and boldness in politics and war.

Two men, one the antithesis of the other, may be cited as examples.

One, Charles Savage, a Swede by birth, who led Tanoa's armies. A reckless, cruel, profligate man, a terror to the enemies of Bau, and a pillar of strength to its Chief. He was adopted by the Chief for the services he rendered, and for those only.

The other, David Whippy, settled down in Fiji about the year 1820-22. He was a man of firm yet mild temperament, sagacious to a high degree at Fijian Councils, and respected by natives and whites as a shrewd trustworthy man.

For many years he lived at Levuka in the official position of Mata-ki-Bau, an important post in those days; he assumed also (among the Fijians only) a native name. David Whippy was thus adopted by the tribe, and it would appear for the sake of the services he rendered.

At this period it seems that food, land, and women were given, "upon demand," to whitemen who thus, by the fiction of adoption, were admitted into the tribe. The act of parting with land does not appear to have carried with it any perception of the meaning conveyed by the words "grant, bargain, and sell." It seems to have been no more than an intention to convey the usufruct during the grantees residence in the tribe, or perhaps for his lifetime. The idea of selling large blocks of land in fee-simple, whereby the ruling Chief lost his seignorial rights, has only been acquired gradually and since the steady influx of Europeans commenced.

None, or very few, of the old grants have been questioned, probably because land, and not people, has always been in excess, and therefore the descendents of the first settlers may now reasonably claim to hold their estates by prescriptive right.

Nevertheless, it may be safely assumed that the act of conveying land to an European and his assigns "for ever," was a thing not understood twenty years ago.

All evidence tends to show that the lands of Fiji are vested in the ruling Chiefs of tribes, occupied by their subordinate Chiefs (or vassals) and people, in consideration for past, present, and future services.

Whilst the ruling Chief has the right and also the power (or he does not rule) to remove at pleasure any sub-Chiefs and people from the lands they occupy, I am of opinion that — though submitted to—such action of removal would be regarded as an act of gross injustice, if there had been no failure by such subordinate Chiefs and people to perform the services required of them.

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* It may also be rendered, and perhaps more correctly, "If it is little, we supply the deficiency," *i.e.*, take us and eat us.—J. B. T.

The view adopted, with reference to this matter, by Her Britannic Majesty's Consular Officers and closely observed, so far as I am aware, from 1859 to the present date is, I believe, strictly just.

By that view I do not think any subordinate Fijian land holder or occcupant can or should alienate land without the consent of the ruling Chief, inasmuch as the Chief holds most important rights in respect to such land, the loss of which would seriously affect his position in regard to other Chiefs, and possibly render him unable to perform certain obligations due by him to other families of the tribe. Nor, on the other hand, do I think the ruling Chief should alienate land excepting with the consent of the occupants, so long as they (the occupants) render the services demanded by such Chief, and sanctioned by immemorial usage and custom.

NOTE.—"Their Fathers or their Gods."

It may not be out of place in connection with the above Memorandum to offer one or two facts tending to show that the head of the tribe, *i.e.*, its highest living ascendant was regarded as its father. He held absolute authority over the persons, property, and lives of his people, and both before and after death had the same reverence shown to him as to a god.

The Fijian language makes no difference in terms between the marks of respect and reverence rendered to a Chief, and those rendered to a God.

I will select a few words, with their meanings, from Hazlewood's Fijian Dictionary:—

(1.) Tāma, *n.*, A father.

(2.) Tāma-ka, *v.*, To reverence, to clap hands to, or make some expression of, a God or Chief.

(3.) Cābo-ra, *v.*, To offer or present property to a God or a Chief.

(4.) Ai-sēvu, *n.*, The first dug yams; the first fruits, which are generally offered to the Gods, and given to the Chief of a place.

(5.) Tānvn, and Veitāuvù, *a.* and *n.*, Literally, to have the same root, or sprung from the same source; used of people who worship the same God; they are allowed to swear at, and take each other's property.

This last word points to something more than a "springing from the same stock." In connection with the highly elaborate Fijian system of relationship (which resembles in almost every particular that of the Seneca, Iroquois, and other American Indians, on the one hand, and that of the people of South India, speaking the Dravidian language (Tamil dià) on the other; it refers to a long bygone existence of the Communal family, an idea now held or viewed with horror and disgust.

Veitāuvù are descended from the same Communal family; they have the same fathers, or in other words, the same Gods; they may take each other's property, and may swear at, or curse each other. For those, not being veitāuvù, to curse each other, there is only one issue—the club.

The reason why veitāuvù may curse each other, is this: That inasmuch as the God invoked is their God in common, no harm will come of it, as the God will not, or cannot, visit the curse of one of his children upon any other, so they swear at, and curse each other with impunity. But a curse will fall upon the child, or descendant of any other God, for whom he (the God), need have no consideration.

The swearing of Fijians is like that of most high Asiatic people. Two men quarelling, never curse each other personally, nor even utter their respective names; they will curse their fathers, their grandfathers, aud their most remote ancestors, but never each other.*

The reason is, that to curse a Fijian's fathers, is to curse his gods.

The highest living male ascendent of the tribe, is the highest living representative of the gods; he is invested with extreme power, and held worthy of extreme reverence.

The successive stages of power held, and reverence due, among the Fijian people is, first, that of the individual family; secondly, the association of many families, which constitutes the Qali; and, thirdly, the union of the Qalis, under their recognized hereditary Chief.

It is the family, house, and tribe of early history, found extant, and as a system closely observed in Polynesia.

(Signed) JOHN B. THURSTON.

Fiji, April 6, 1874.

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* Or, it may be that for "veitauvù" to curse each other's Fathers, *i.e.*, Gods, is no great offence, as it is quite a "family matter," and refers to a common ancestry. To swear at or curse the Fathers or Gods of a man not of the speaker's family, is an insu that must be revenged.—J. B. T.

No. 3.

"Pearl," at Levuka, Fiji, March 12, 1874.

(English.)

IT is my wish that the Chiefs of Fiji give up the Government of Fiji to Great Britain

(Tonguese.)

KO ho ku loto ke foaki ki Beletania.

(Fijian.)

SA yaloqu méra solia na vanua ko Viti ko erà na Luraga ni Viti, vei Peritania.

(Signed) MAAFU.

Witnesses:
(Signed) W. WYKEHAM PERCY, *Secretary.*
E. TURNER, *Interpreter.*

No. 4.

PROPOSED future Establishments of the Government of Fiji as a Colony, with Estimates of Expenditure.

	£	£
Pensions.		
King	2,000	
Chief Justice (?)	150	
		2,150
Establishments.		
Governor	1,200	
Colonial Secretary and Treasurer	600	
Native Minister and Registrar	500	
Chief Justice	750	
Associated Judge (?)	500	
Attorney-General	400	
Surveyor-General	400	
		4,350
Colonial Secretary's Department.		
Salaries—		
1 Clerk and Accountant	200	
Medical Officer	200	
1 Clerk	150	
Housekeeper	75	
Messengers (native)	30	
Contingencies—		
Stationery and Public Offices	300	
Printing	500	
		1,455
Native Minister's Department.		
1 Clerk	200	
20 Boatmen and messengers	200	
Boats and travelling	500	
		900
Surveyor-General's Department.		
1 Surveyor and draughtsman	300	
Paper, &c.	300	
Travelling and boats	200	
10 Men	100	
		900
Postal.		
Postmaster	250	
Service of mails	250	
		500
Judicial.		
Registrar, Under-Keeper of Records, Bankruptcy Officer	300	
Sheriff	300	
Clerk to Chief Justice	100	
Interpreter	150	
Witness and jurors' fees, and other expenses	600	
		1,450

	£	£
Police.		
Superintendent of Police	250	
Sub-Inspector	150	
Native Officers, Sergeants, and Constables, and rations	2,000	
		2,400
Customs.		
Collector	300	
Harbour-master	250	
Clerks, rent of stores, &c.	1,000	
		1,550
Provincial.		
6 Resident Magistrates and Collectors	1,800	
6 Clerks	600	
Native Governors, &c.	3,400	
		5,800
Interest on debt		6,230
Total annual expenditure		27,685
Estimate of Revenue.		
Customs		15,000
Postal		700
Shipping		600
Fees, &c.		1,100
Native taxes		10,000
Spirit licenses		200
Labour fees		500
Total annual revenue		28,100
Estimated total annual expenditure		27,685
Leaving balance for deficiencies and Sinking Fund		1,415

N.B. Customs are calculated on,—
6*s.* 6*d.* a gallon on spirits; 4*s.* a gallon on wine—7½ per cent. *ad valorem*.

No. 5.

(No. 1.)—SUMMARY showing the Estimated Receipts and Expenditure for the Six Months ending September 30, 1874, as compared with the Estimated Receipts and Expenditure for the Financial Year 1872-73.

	Financial Year, 1872-73.			Six Months ending Sept. 30, 1874, at Suspended Rates, calculated at per Annum.		
	£	£	£	£	£	£ s.
Estimated Receipts.						
As per Statement No. 2			29,150			33,600 0
Estimated Expenditure, per Statement No. 3.						
Civil List		10,650			3,180	
Chief Secretary's Department—						
Works	2,326			1,650		
Chief Secretary's Office	1,575			780		
Postal	4,000			500		
Judicial	1,380			1,580		
Police and Penal	300			1,254		
Provincial Establishment	6,786			8,965		
Armed Constabulary at Head-quarters				1,402		
Legislative	1,110					
		17,477			16,131	
Finance and trade		2,805			1,250	
Interest on debentures, &c.		230			6,230	
			31,162			26,791
Estimated deficiency, 1872-73			2,012			
Estimated Surplus for six months ending Sept. 30, 1874—						
At per annum						6,809 0
For the six months, one-half						3,404 10

(No. 2.)—COMPARATIVE Statement showing the Eestimated Receipts for the Six Months ending September 30, 1874, and the Financial Year 1872-73.

	Financial Year, 1872-73.	Six Months ending September 30, 1874, calculated at per Annum.
	£	£
Customs duties	10,100	15,000
Postal	500	700
Shipping fees	300	600
Fees, fines, and forfeitures	300	1,100
Native taxes	10,000	15,000
Labour fees	100	500
Spirit licenses, &c.	400	200
Miscellaneous	500	500
Hire of Levoni men, &c.	1,900	..
Tax on natives carrying fire-arms	500	..
Lease of Crown lands	100	..
Fees under Customs Act	250	..
Alteration of tobacco import	600	..
Fees, fines, &c., in Provincial Courts, &c.	600	..
Land taxes	3,000	..
	29,150	33,600

(No. 3.)—COMPARATIVE Statement showing the Estimates of Expenditure for the Six Months ending September 30, 1874, and for the Financial Year 1872-73. Assented to by His Majesty, March 23, 1874.

	Estimates, 1872-73.		Estimates for Six Months ending September 1874, at Permanent Rate, calculated at per Annum.				Estimates for Six Months ending September 1874, at Suspended Rates, calculated at per Annum.			
Civil List.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
King's Privy Purse			1,500				900			
Chief Justice			750				600			
First Associated Judge			500				400			
Native Judge			150				120			
King's Ministers			1,000				800			
Attorney-General			450				360			
		10,650				4,350				3,180
Chief Secretary's Department.										
Works—										
Printing			500							
Rent			300							
Stores			300							
Housekeeper			150							
Repairs to buildings			200							
Freights and incidentals			200							
	2,320				1,650				1,650	
Chief Secretary's Office—										
Clerks			400							
Medical officer			150							
Stationery			130							
Incidentals			100							
	1,575				780				780	
Postal—										
Postmaster			250							
Insular services and mails			200							
Incidentals			50							
	4,000				500				500	
Judicial—										
Registrar			300				240			
Sheriff			300				240			
Clerk to Provincial Court			200				200			
Judge's Associate and Deputy Registrar			150				150			
Interpreter, &c.			150				150			
Jury and witness' fees			250				250			
Circuit expenses			125				125			
Coroner's fees			100				100			
Incidentals			125				125			
	1,380				1,700				1,580	

	Estimates, 1872-73.		Estimates for Six Months ending September 1874, at Permanent Rates, calculated at per Annum.				Estimates for Six Months ending September 1874, at Suspended Rates, calculated at per Annum.			
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Police and Penal—										
Clerk			100							
Warder of Gaol			180		..	..	..			
Sub-Inspector of Police ..			150		..	..				
Three constables			250							
Native constables			24							
Rations			320							
Passages			80							
Incidentals			150							
(1872-73, penal only)										
	300				1,254				1,254	
Provincial Establishment—										
East Viti Levu—										
Commissioner			300				240			
Clerk			150				150			
Secretary			200				200			
Sergeant			75				75			
Native Lieutenant ..			25				25			
Native Sergeant			5				5			
Constables			48				48			
Native Magistrates ..			60				60			
				863				803		
South Viti Levu—										
Commissioner			300				240			
Clerk			100				100			
Secretary			100				100			
Sergeant			75				75			
Native Lieutenant ..			25				25			
Sergeants			20				20			
Constables			240				240			
Native Magistrate			60				60			
				920				860		
North Viti Levu—										
Commissionér			300				240			
Clerk			100				100			
Collector			100				100			
Sergeant			75				75			
Native Lieutenant			25				25			
Native Sergeants			20				20			
Native Constables			240				240			
Native Magistrates ..			40				40			
				900				840		
Cakaudrove—										
Commissioner			400				320			
Lieutenant and Collector ..			200				200			
Scribe			20				20			
Sergeant			5				5			
Constables			24				24			
Native Magistrates ..			40				40			
				689				609		
North Vanua Levu—										
Commissioner			300				240			
Lieutenant and Collector ..			150				150			
Native Lieutenant ..			25				25			
Sergeants			10				10			
Constables			120				120			
Native Magistrates ..			60				60			
				665				605		
Lau, or Eastern Province—										
Commissioner			300				240			
Sergeant			5				5			
Constables			24				24			
Native Magistrate			40				40			
				369				309		
Kadavu—										
Commissioner			300				240			
Sergeant			5				5			
Constables			24				24			
Native Magistrates ..			20				20			
				349				289		
General Expences—										
Governors and Lieutenant-Governors			3,700							
Native Revenue Collectors ..			100							

	Estimates, 1872-73.		Estimates for Six Months ending September 1874, at Permanent Rates, calculated at per Annum.				Estimates for Six Months ending September 1874, at Suspended Rates, calculated at per Annum.			
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Repairs to boats, &c. ..			500							
Stationery			200							
Incidentals			150							
				4,650				4,650		
Armed Constabulary and Native Affairs (1872-73)	6,786				9,405				8,965	
Armed Constabulary at Headquarters and Lovoni—										
Captain				200						
Lieutenant				150						
Sergeant-Major				90						
Sergeants				150						
Native Captains ..				100						
Constables				120						
Sergeants				10						
Interpreter				50						
Officers' mess allowance ..				182						
Constables' rations ..				250						
Incidentals				100						
					1,402				1,402	
Legislative	1,110									
		17,477				16,991				16,131
Department of Finance and Trade.										
Finance	930									
Accountant					250				200	
Trade	1,875									
Collector				250				200		
Harbour-master				250				200		
Clerk and Locker				150				150		
Customs officers				300				300		
Incidentals and Locker's fees ..				200				200		
					1,150				1,050	
		2,805				1,400				1,250
		30,932				22,441				20,561
Interest on debentures, &c. ..		230				6,230				6,230
Total		31,162				28,671				26,791

No. 6.

Gentlemen, *Levuka, March* 16, 1874.

REFERRING to our letter of 19th February we have now the honour to conclude our report upon the accounts of the Kingdom of Fiji.

For the purpose of greater clearness and facility of reference, we have caused the statements to be prepared, which you will find inclosed and enumerated upon the last page of this letter.

As we were informed by the officers of the Treasury Department that the public accounts to May 31, 1873, had been placed before Parliament, we confined our examination to transactions subsequent to that date, and asked for the Appropriation Act authorising the expenditure for that period. It then appeared that supplies for two months only had been granted, but the vote doing so was not distinct as to whether the expenditure so authorized was upon the basis of the Appropriation Act 1872-73 or on the estimated expenditure for 1873-74. This authority therefore expired on the 31st August.

A Minute of the Privy Council was handed to us (inclosure K) stating that it had been "Resolved that the Civil Service Estimates as prepared by Ministers for the financial year 1873-74 be adopted and payments be made by the Minister of Finance in accordance therewith, saving and excepting such officers as are or may be abolished by the new Constitution coming into force;" this Minute only refers to the Civil Service and not to the General Expenditure, for which there is not even the authority of the Cabinet, nor any permission of Parliament saving for the period ending August.

With reference to the revenue for the period May 31 to December 31, 1873, we had placed before us another Minute of the Cabinet (inclosure L): "Resolved that, whilst we accept the debt of the Kingdom, we think that the outstanding taxes should not be demanded, whatever is already collected to be paid in. A fresh beginning should, however, be made from the 1st of June last, and the whole of the taxes for of the present six months should be collected, viz., 10*s.* from each man, and 2*s.* for each woman."

We proceeded with our examination of the accounts and found an item of 5,000 dollars transferred on 30th June, 1873 from the votes for Provincial Governors to the item "King's Privy Purse." In explanation of this ,we had handed to us inclosure M, which states "that a sum of 5,000 dollars should

be transferred from the vote for payment of the salaries of Provincial Governors to the credit of King's Privy Purse to meet certain expenses already paid by His Majesty on account of the Governors."

The Privy Council having thus assumed the power to order the remission of revenue, and that sums of money voted by Parliament for one purpose should be devoted to another, it seems to us futile to attempt a classification of the revenue, or to check the expenditure as being within legal limits. We, therefore, contented ourselves with comparing the figures contained in the balance sheet (inclosure D) with the official books and records; these we found agreed.

As we found no available funds in the Treasury Chest, and that the borrowing powers allowed by Parliament had been exercised to their utmost extent, and that under a very wide and liberal interpretation, we gave great attention to the liabilities of the Kingdom, the due dates of the debts, and the annual charge to be made for interest on debentures still current.

Enclosure T is an amended statement of liabilities, to which we direct your attention.

Of the total sum here shown, 87,145*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.*, 36,245*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.* is due and payable on demand the balance as under.

	£
On December 1, 1874	4,000
March 1, 1876	1,500
September 1, 1876	5,000
December 1, 1875	2,000
December 1, 1877	23,400
December 1, 1878	15,000
Total	50,900

With reference to the amounts raised by the issue of Debentures, we find the sum so realized to be 51,944*l.* Debentures representing 64,700*l.* having been issued therefore, the difference, 12,756*l.*, being for discount, cost of sale, and expenses. We ascertained the authority under which this money was borrowed to be the Acts of Parliament Nos. 12, 31, 39, or Loan Act '71, Public Loans Act, 1872, and Legal Tender Act, 1872. The borrowing power given to Ministers by these Acts was, in the case of the two first, 5,000*l.* and 50,000*l.* respectively, while the last cited was practically unlimited, inasmuch as it enabled the Ministers to issue any number of Treasury notes, with power to redeem them, by exchanging them for debentures having a currency of one year, but the proviso that this could only be done within six months after the coming into operation of the Act, was obligatory. On this account it is impossible to say if the intentions of the Parliament, so far as the borrowing of money, have been complied with, but viewing the Public Loans Act, 1872, as a consolidation of Loans Act, as may be assumed from its wording and provisions, you will observe that the sum assigned for the total debenture liability has been exceeded by 900*l.* An examination of inclosure C will show that the purposes for which the loans were authorized have not been complied with. The provisions of the Legal Tender Act have also been evaded, and debentures for three years issued in exchange for Treasury notes. No separate accounts have been kept to show the amounts raised and expended under each loan, as we are of opinion should have been the case. And you will therefore recognize the difficulty which exists in arriving at a certain statement as to how the proceeds have been expended. In explanation upon this point we were informed that Ministers considered that if the debenture indebtedness of the Kingdom was within the aggregate sums authorized by the several Acts, they had full power to issue new debentures to pay off those coming due. It is scarcely necessary for us to point out to you the error of this.

Looking at the Revenue received from October 1871 to 31st December, 1873, as per Statement J., viz., 42,063*l.* 18*s.*, we find that the debt contracted during that time was 82,000*l.*, so that the establishment and maintenance of the Government has cost 124,000*l.*, or three times as much as the revenue received. There does not appear much hope of relieving this under present circumstances, as another heavy liability has now to be provided for, viz., interest on debentures, amounting to 424*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* per month.

Referring again to inclosure C, it seems that 33,468*l.* have been expended for purposes not contemplated by the Loan Act, while only the items—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Retirement of debentures	16,599	0	0
Postal subsidy	750	0	0
Reproductive works	1,127	3	6

appear to be legally appropriated.

Enclosure R shows that the Treasurer estimates the Revenue for June 1873 at 20,221 dol. 80 c., while the actual receipts were only 4,094 dol. 71 c.

The total receipts for the year were 40,600 dollars less than the estimate, while the expenditure was 29,000 dollars in excess of the Appropriation Act, irrespective of the money obtained by loans.

Referring again to the fact that, out of the whole debt only the small sum of 1,127*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* has been spent on what may be termed reproductive works, and that the expenditure at present is nearly three times in excess of the revenue, it must be evident to you that the continuation of such a course can but end seriously to the country.

We have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS HORTON.
CARL L. SAHL.

Commodore J. G. Goodenough, and
E. L. Layard, Esq.,
Her Britannic Majesty's Commissioners.

Inclosures.

A.—Statement of Debentures Issued.
B.—Due date of ditto.
C.—Summary of Loans Raised and Expended.
D.—Revenue and Expenditure, June 1 to December 31, 1873.
E.—Revenue same periods. Details.
F.—Expenditure, ditto. Ditto.
G.—Details of Civil List Expenditure.
H.—Expenditure, October 1, 1871, to December 31, 1873.
I.—Revenue, ditto.
K.—Minute of Privy Council.
L.—Ditto.
M.—Ditto
N.—Act No. 12.
O.—Act No. 31.
P.—Legal Tender Act.
Q.—Appropriation Act
R.—Treasurer's Memorandum in Financial Statement.
S.—Estimates, 1873 to 1874.
T.—Liabilities.

No. 7.

(A.)—Statement of Debentures issued under Public Loans Acts 1871 and 1872.

Term.	Denomination.	Amounts.	From whom Borrowed.	Securities, &c.
	£	£		
One year Debentures ..	100	12,800	Fiji Bank and private persons ..	On public revenues.
Two „ „ ..	100	5,000	Bank New Zealand and ditto ..	Ditto.
Three „ „ ..	100	8,000	Ditto, ditto	Ditto.
Four „ „ ..	100	23,400	Sahl and Cape and ditto ..	20,000*l.* mortgage on public and private lands.
Five „ „ ..	500	15,000	Fiji Bank	On public revenues.
		64,700		
Amount since retired		13,800		
		50,900	Balance outstanding	Rate of interest, 10 per cent.
Balance of overdrawn account at Fiji Bank ..		11,400		Rate of interest, 10 per cent.
		62,300		

No. 8.

(B.)—Due Date of outstanding Debentures, February 28, 1874, and Total Amount of Interest payable on them.

	Amount.	When Due.	Interest.
	£		£
One year	4,000	December 3, 1874 ..	400
Three years	2,000	December 1, 1875 ..	400
„	1,500	March 1, 1876 ..	450
„	5,000	September 1, 1876 ..	1,500
Five years	23,400	December 1, 1877 ..	9,360
„	15,000	December 1, 1878 ..	7,500
Total	50,900		19,610

No. 9.

(C.)—Summary of Loans raised. and Expenditure against same, under authority of Loan Acts 1871 and and 1872, and Legal Tender Act.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Total Debentures issued to date	64,700	0	0			
Less discount on above	12,756	0	0			
Total realization				51,944	0	0
Debentures since retired and payments of interest				16,599	2	0
Expenditure voted by Parliament dependent on loan, as per statement 31st May, 1873				8,909	16	0
Outstanding liabilities of 30th June, 1872				11,370	3	0
Postal subsidy voted by Parliament				750	0	0
Naval and military, open vote, taken for war expenditure ..				9,708	0	0
Cash advance made against naval and military liabilities ..				1,000	0	0
Reproductive works, including buildings, plantations, roads, &c., from 1st June, 1873, to 31st December, 1873				1,127	3	6
				49,464	4	6
Balance devoted to expenditure under estimates ..				2,479	15	6
Total				51,944	0	0

No. 10.

(D,)—Revenue and Expenditure, June 1 to December 31, 1873.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Revenue as per statement	14,221	5	6	Expenditure as per statement ..	31,266	12	10
Proceeds of Debentures	12,340	0	0	Interest account paid	741	6	0
Notes issued	4,198	2	6	Advance account	190	15	0
Balance of cash, 31st May, 1873 ..	3,939	13	6	Fiji Banking and Commercial Company, coin	847	18	2
Cheques on Fiji Bank	1,320	3	8	Pension account	10	0	0
Rebate of interest account ..	110	16	8	Balance of cash, 31st December, 1873	3,072	0	6
Sundry miscellaneous loans as per statement	3,144	14	9	Debentures retired and interest ..	3,420	0	0
Paid to Bank of New Zealand by the Fiji Banking Company, Auckland..	550	0	0	Bank of New South Wales, balance.	22	16	0
				Bank of New Zealand, balance ..	246	6	10
					39,817	15	4
				To balance	7	1	3
Total	39,824	16	7	Total	39,824	16	7

Memorandum.—Against this balance of 7*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.* there have been some notarial charges paid in Sydney, of which there is no advice at present.

No. 11.

(E.)—Revenue.

Department.	For month of June, 1873.	For period ending 31st December, 1873.
	Dols. c.	Dols. c.
Customs duties	963 60	28,760 70
Postal and duty stamps	414 60	1,135 32
Shipping fees	218 83	1,791 81
Fees and fines—		
Supreme Court, Warden's ditto, Provincial ditto	373 83	2,807 23
Levoni fees	..	622 62
Native taxes	1,849 01	19,484 34
Fees under Labour Act	..	74 00
Fees under Customs Act	26 90	..
Land taxes	178 60	3,459 87
Wine and spirit licenses	25 00	2,093 75
Miscellaneous revenue	312 74	1,341 23
Foreign labour fees	76 50	1,365 75
Convict labour wages	..	2,001 00
Special tax on Macuata Natives	..	1,730 12
	4,438 61	66,667 74
		4,438 61
Total	..	71,106 35
	..	£14,221 5 6

No. 12.

(F.)—Expenditure.

Department.	For month of June, 1873.	For period ending 31st December, 1873.
	Dols. c.	Dols. c.
Civil List	10,642 08	16,758 23
Legislative	158 32	995 14
Lands and works	707 06	3,049 31
Chief Secretary	651 87	1,114 65
Works	..	..
Postal	1,583 32	2,368 66
Judicial	1,488 95	2,809 25
Finance	216 25	874 00
Trade and commerce	966 55	1,927 54
Unauthorised	3,091 79	4,368 12
Native affairs	1,811 83	5,077 71
Penal	537 75	1,341 62
Printing	..	1,559 85
Naval and military	5,840 54	27,579 55
Reproductive works	708 84	4,526 98
Unforeseen expenditure	125 12	..
Gubernatorial	..	..
Commission for codifying laws	..	250 00
Supplementary estimates	..	51 66
Refund account	108 84	2,765 15
Outstanding liabilities	50,276 68	..
	78,915 79	77,417 42
		78,915 79
Total	..	156,333 21
	..	£31,266 12 10

No. 13.

(G.)—PARTICULARS of Civil List Expenditure.

Vote.	For month of June, 1873.	For period ending 31st December, 1873.
	Dols. c.	Dols. c.
King's Privy Purse	..	3,125 00
King's Cabinet Ministers	1,249 98	4,791 59
King's Private Secretary	..	479 14
The Chief Justice	625 00	1,562 50
Associated Judge	268 81	833 32
Native Judge	..	312 50
Attorney-General	562 50	562 50
Provincial Governors	6,935 81	3,591 72
Speaker	541 66	1,083 32
Auditor	458 32	416 64
	10,642 08	16,758 23
Add—		
Expenditure for month of June, 1873, including arrears of past year	..	10,642 08
Total expenditure for seven months ..	..	27,400 31
		£5,480 1 3

No. 14.

(H.)—STATEMENT of Expenditure, commencing October 1, 1871, ending December 31, 1873.

Department.	For nine months ending 30th June, 1872.	For period ending 31st May, 1873.	For month of June, 1873.	For period ending 31st December, 1873.	Total.
	Dols. c.	Dols. c.	Dols. c.	Dols. c.	Dols. c.
Civil List	7,929 65	33,9?8 51	10,642 08	16,758 23	69,318 47
Legislative	5,838 06	3,992 69	158 32	995 14	10,984 21
Lands and works	2 591 28	10,372 62	707 06	3,049 31	16,720 27
Chief Secretary	10,483 05	10,863 98	651 87	1,114 65	23,113 55
Works	4,167 48	..	..	..	4,167 48
Postal	2,005 85	2,292 35	1,583 32	2,368 66	8,250 18
Judicial	8,834 69	6,091 48	1,488 95	2,809 25	19,224 37
Finance	2,721 62	4,442 18	216 25	874 00	8,254 05
Trade and Commerce	5,195 36	5,884 76	966 55	1,927 54	13,974 21
Unauthorised	..	..	3,091 79	4,368 12	7,459 91
Native affairs	2,882 14	13.397 23	1,811 83	5,077 71	23,168 91
Penal	7,003 91	1,500 00	537 75	1,341 62	10,383 28
Printing	..	..	..	1,559 85	1,559 85
Naval and military	..	10,651 10	5,840 54	27,579 55	44,071 19
Reproductive works	..	..	708 84	4,526 98	5,235 82
Unforeseen expenditure	..	..	125 12	..	125 12
Gubernatorial	14,664 77	..	..	..	14,664 77
Commission for codifying laws	..	..	..	250 00	250 00
Supplementary estimates	16,710 47	..	..	51 66	16,762 13
Refund account	..	1,756 01	108 84	2,765 15	4,630 00
Outstanding liabilities	56,850 79	..	50,276 68	28,302 48	135,429 95
Total	147,879 12	105,232 91	78,915 79	105,719 90	437,747 72

No. 15.

(J.)—STATEMENT of Revenue, commencing October 1, 1871, ending December 31, 1873.

Department.	For 9 Months ending 30th June, 1872.	For Period ending 31st May, 1873.	For Month of June 1873.	For Period ending 31st Dec., 1873.	Total.
	Dol. c.	Dol. c.	Dol. c.	Dol. c.	Dol. c.
Customs duties	1,321 97	41,533 76	990 70	28,760 70	72,607 13
Postal and duty stamps	1,365 06	3,151 75	146 45	1,135 32	5,798 58
Shipping fees	1,992 99	2,102 81	218 83	1,791 81	6,106 44
Fees and Fines—					
Supreme Court	4,186 96	4,057 43	297 08	2,807 23	11,348 70
Warden's ditto					
Provincial ditto.					
Levoni fees	..	10,331 22	..	622 62	10,953 84
Native taxes	..	28,908 53	1,748 81	19,484 34	82,384 66
Fees under Labour Act	29,205 74	2,963 24	..	74 00	
Land taxes	..	6,350 17	178 60	3,459 87	9,988 64
Wine and spirit licenses	..	1,065 61	25 00	2,093 75	3,184 36
Fees under Customs Act	..	125 93	..	..	125 93
Miscellaneous Revenue	381 25	512 65	312 74	1,341 23	2,547 87
Foreign labour fees	..	..	176 50	1,365 75	1,542 25
Convict labour wages	..	..	..	2,001 00	2,001 00
Special tax on Macuata natives ..	..	..	..	1,730 12	1,730 12
Total	38,453 97	101,103 10	4,094 71	66,667 74	210,319 52

No. 16.

(T.)—APPROXIMATE Statement of Liabilities of Fijian Government, computed to February 28, 1874.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Amount of Current Debentures, 1 to 5 years	50,900 0 0	
Accrued interest on above, calculated to 28th February ..	3,000 0 0	
		53,900 0 0
Treasury notes in circulation..		2,013 4 6
Mortgage on Levoni lands and interest..		1,291 1 4
Sundry open accounts rendered to Department	10,909 9 4	
Amount estimated by Treasury as due beyond previous sum	2,000 0 0	
Judgment against Government in Sagar's estate.. ..	583 0 0	
Claim against Macuata natives for damage to settlers; collected by Government	346 0 0	
		13,838 9 4
Overdraft at Fiji Bank	..	.. 11,246 14 0
Expenditure over and above revenue, calculated on the basis of the Balance Sheet, 1st June to 31st December, at 2,428*l.* per month—		
January 1 to February 28, two months		.. 4,856 0 0
Total		.. 87,145 9 2
*Deduct debt on Levoni land		.. 1,291 1 4
Total liability		.. 85,854 7 10

(Signed) THOMAS HORTON.
CARL L. SAHL.

Levuka, Fiji, March 16, 1874.

No. 17.

LIST of Assets of the Fiji Government.

	£
Value of Levoni Lands against Messrs. Rabone Feez' account prior to October ..	2,500
Cash in hand, mostly representing part payments of outstanding accounts, calculated at 12,000*l.*	3,040
Native revenue due, and partly in hands of collectors—Lau, 3,000*l.*; Tai Levu, 600*l.*; Central, 500*l.*; Nadroga, 700*l.*; Yasawas, 300*l.*; Bua, 300*l.*; Macuata, 300*l.* ..	5,700
Royal Lands Commission (due by fees)	334
Customs, in bond and collector's hands	250
Printing accounts	300
	12,124
Less Levoni lands	2,500
	9,624

* The mortgage on the Levoni lands has been foreclosed.

No. 18.

(K.)

AT a meeting of the Privy Council held on the 24th September, 1873.

Resolved—

That the Civil Service Estimates as prepared by Ministers for the financial years 1873-74 be adopted, and payments made by the Minister of Finance in accordance therewith, saving and excepting such officers as are or may be abolished by the new Constitution coming into force.

That every possible reduction in the expenditure of the Government is to be made, and careful provision made for the Sinking Fund, to meet the money borrowed and interest on the same.

No. 19.

(L.)

AT a meeting of the Privy Council held on the 24th September, 8873, with reference to the taxes which are still due throughout the Kingdom.

Resolved—

That whilst we accept the debt of the Kingdom we think that the outstanding taxes should not be demanded, whatever is already collected to be paid in.

A fresh beginning should, however, be made from the 1st of June last, and the whole of the taxes for the present six months should be collected; viz., 10*s.* from each man and 2*s.* for each woman.

No. 20.

(M.)

MEETING held at Vadratau on the 13th June, 1873.

(Extract.)

Resolved—

That a sum of 5,000 dollars be transferred from the Vote for payment of salaries of Provincial Governors to the credit of the Privy purse, to meet certain expenses already paid by His Majesty on account of the Governors.

No. 21.

(N.)

FIJI.

CAKOBAU REX.

(No. 12.)

An Act to authorize the Raising of Monies for General Purposes in the Kingdom of Fiji.

[Assented to December 14, 1871.]

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is expedient that the Government of Fiji shall have authority to raise monies for and on behalf of the said Government and for the purposes thereof.

Be it enacted by the King and the Legislative Assembly of the Kingdom of Fiji as follows:—

Authority to issue debentures. How secured. Amount.

1. It shall be lawful for the King's Cabinet to issue Debentures in such form as may be required secured on the Consolidated Revenue of said Kingdom for the purpose of raising and obtaining the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars which sum shall be placed to the credit of the said Consolidated Revenue of the said Kingdom.

Currency. Rate of interest. How payable.

2. Such Debentures shall have currency for any period not exceeding two years from the date of issue and shall bear interest at the rate of ten per centum per annum which said interest shall be due and payable at the Public Treasury quarterly in specie during the currency of any issue under this Act.

Debentures signed by Minister.

3. Every Debenture issued under the authority hereof shall be signed by the Minister of Finance (for the time being) of the said Kingdom.

Title and date of commencement.

4. This Act shall come into force on the passing thereof and may be cited as "The Loan Act 1871."

No. 22.

(O.)

FIJI.

CAKOBAU REX.

(No. 31.)

An Act to authorize the King's Cabinet to Negotiate a Loan.

[Assented to July 23, 1872.]

BE it enacted by the King and the Legislative Assembly of the Kingdom of Fiji as follows:— Preamble.

1. That it shall be lawful for the King's Cabinet with the approval of His Majesty to negotiate a Loan by the issue of Debentures or in any other mode deemed best for a sum not exceeding two hundred and fifty thousand dollars such Debentures to bear interest at a rate not exceeding ten per centum per annum. Authority to borrow.

2. The King's Cabinet is authorised to guarantee the payment of all or any portion of the said Loan by pledging such of the Public Lands Revenues or other securities as the King may assent to. Guarantee of payment.

3. The amount arising from the aforesaid loan shall be appropriated for the retiring when due of any Debentures issued under the authority of any Act prior to this Act for any object of improvement for the erection of any public buildings or other public works provided or rendered necessary by existent Acts or for any other reproductive undertakings. Loan how applied.

4. This Act shall come into force on the passing thereof and may be cited as the "Public Loans Act, 1872" Commencement and title.

No. 23.

(P.)

FIJI.

CAKOBAU REX.

(No. 22.)

An Act to Establish and Define a Legal Tender of Money in Fiji,

[Assented to July 23, 1872.]

WHEREAS by the "Constitution Act of Fiji" it is declared that the right of coining money and of regulating the currency is vested in His Majesty the King by and with the advice of his Ministers:—

And whereas from time to time there have been issued from His Majesty's Public Treasury divers notes payable on demand respectively purporting to certify that the bearer thereof was entitled to receive from the Treasury at Levuka the sum therein mentioned (being the sum of one dollar five dollars ten dollars twenty-five dollars or fifty dollars as the case may be) and each of which said notes is signed by the Treasurer or Minister of Finance of the Kingdom for the time being and countersigned by his chief clerk and bears on the face thereof the words—"*Treasury Note,*" twice and also the inscription—"*N.B.—This Note is a legal tender and payable at the Treasury.*" And whereas there have also been issued from time to time from His Majesty's said Treasury divers other notes also bearing the signature of the said Treasurer or Minister of Finance and countersigned or initialed by his chief clerk bearing the inscription "*Ai vola oqo sosomi ni lavo Vakacavacava Vaka Viti*" and being respectively for the several sums of twenty-five fifty and one one hundred cents (as the case may be). And whereas the issue of the notes aforesaid have been of great public convenience: Preamble.

Now be it Enacted by the King and the Legislative Assembly of the Kingdom of Fiji as follows:—

1. All and every notes and note heretofore or hereafter issued under the hand of the Treasurer or Minister of Finance of Fiji and countersigned or initialed by his chief clerk and bearing on the face thereof the words or either of the inscriptions aforesaid are and is hereby declared a legal tender for and in respect of any debt or obligation or in fulfilment of any contract for the payment of money due given or made by any person or persons company or corporation to or with any other person or persons company or corporation whatsoever and for all other purposes within the Kingdom of Fiji. Notes declared a legal tender.

2. All genuine gold silver bronze or copper coin issued by and with the authority of His Majesty or any Sovereign State or the Government thereof shall in like manner as aforesaid be a legal tender according to their currency value. Gold, silver, &c., legal tender.

3. After any such tender as aforesaid if any defendant or defendants in any action suit or other proceeding brought or instituted to enforce payment compliance or fulfilment of any such debt obligation or contract as aforesaid shall prove that such defendant or defendants was or were ready and willing to pay or deliver over in Treasury notes or coin as aforesaid or partly in Treasury notes and partly in such coin as aforesaid to the plaintiff or plaintiffs in any such action suit or proceeding no such plaintiff or plaintiffs shall be entitled to recover costs and any Treasury notes or coin as aforesaid if duly tendered by the defendant or on his behalf shall and may be received and accepted by the officer charged with any levy for the enforcement of such judgment in or towards payment or satisfaction of such levy. After tender plaintiff not entitled to costs.

4. The holder of every such Treasury note shall be entitled to have and claim from the Public Notes when payable gold or in silver.

Treasury at Levuka at any time within six months after the passing of this Act in exchange for such note or notes the amount thereon mentioned in gold or silver coin or at the option of the Minister of Finance in lieu of such gold or silver a Treasury Debenture having currency for one year and bearing interest at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum. Provided that any such Note or Debenture shall to the amount thereon inscribed be accepted by the Minister of Finance in payment of any duty tax or other sum of money imposed by any Act heretofore or hereafter enacted in aid of the Public Revenues.

Notes payable by debentures.

Notes when payable in coin.

5. At any time after the expiration of six months after the passing of this Act any such note then current and in circulation shall be payable on demand at the said Treasury in gold or silver coin.

Penalty for forging or uttering.

6. Any person who shall be convicted of forging uttering or putting off any note or coin as aforesaid knowing the same to be in imitation of any such notes or coin as aforesaid with intent to defraud shall be deemed guilty of felony and shall be liable to imprisonment with or without hard labour for such term not exceeding ten years and with or without fine at the discretion of the Judge presiding at the trial.

Commencement and title.

7. This Act shall come into force on the passing thereof and may bé cited as "The Legal Tender Act 1872."

No. 24.

(Q.)

FIJI.

CAKOBAU REX.

(No. 39.)

An Act to provide for the Appropriation of a Sum of Money out of the General Revenue to cover the Expenditure of His Majesty's Government in respect of Outstanding Liabilities for the Year ending 30th June, 1872*; and also for the Appropriation of the Revenue and the Supplies granted by Parliament for the Year ending 30th June,* 1873.

[Assented to July 23, 1872.]

WE your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects the members of the Legislative Assembly of Fiji in Parliament assembled towards making good the supply which we have cheerfully granted to your Majesty in this session of Parliament have resolved to grant your Majesty the sum hereinafter mentioned and do therefore beseech your Majesty that it may be enacted and be it enacted by the King and Legislative Assembly of Fiji in this present Parliament assembled and by the authority of the same as follows:—

1. That the title of this Act shall be "The Appropriation Act of 1872," and shall come into force on the passing thereof.

2. There shall and may be issued and applied out of the Consolidated and Land Funds of the Kingdom of Fiji to cover the expenditure in respect of outstanding liabilities of His Majesty's Government for the service of the year ending the 30th day of June 1872 any sum or sums of money not exceeding in the whole amount of twenty-one thousand nine hundred and one dollars thirty-seven cents.

3. There shall and may be issued and applied out of the Consolidated and Land Funds of the Kingdom of Fiji towards making good the supply granted to His Majesty for the service of the year ending the 30th day of June 1873 any sum or sums of money not exceeding in the whole the amount of one hundred and forty thousand four hundred and ten dollars towards or for the purposes hereinafter expressed in the schedules hereto.

4. There shall and may be applied out of any sum or sums now raised or hereafter to be raised under the authority of "The Public Loans Act of 1872" any additional sum or sums not exceeding in the whole the amount of ninety-two thousand two hundred dollars towards or for the purposes hereinafter expressed in Schedule III.

5. The Minister of Finance of Fiji shall issue and pay the several sums hereby appropriated to such persons for the purposes heretofore mentioned upon such days and in such proportions as the King may by any warrant to be signed by him order and the payments to be made shall be charged upon and payable out of such revenue as aforesaid.

6. The said Minister of Finance shall in his accounts from time to time be allowed credit for any sum of money paid by him in pursuance of any warrant issued by virtue of this Act and the receipt of the person to whom the sum shall be paid shall be a full and valid discharge to the said Minister of Finance in passing his said accounts for any sums as shall be therein mentioned.

FIJI.

Cakobau Rex.

ESTIMATES OF REVENUE.

From 1st July, 1872, to 31st July, 1873.

CUSTOM DUTIES.

	D.	c.
Spirits, cordials, liqueurs, or strong waters, sweetened, or mixed with any article, in bulk or case, calculated on 25,000 gallons, at 1 dol. 25 c. per gallon	31,250	00
Wines, in bulk or case, perry and cider in bottles, calculated at 2,000 gallons, at 75 c.	1,500	00
Beers and porters, in bulk or case, cider and perry in bulk, calculated at 3,000 gallons, at 25 c. per gallon	750	00
Tobacco, manufactured, 25 c. *ad valorem*	1,500	00
Cigars, at 12 dols. 50 c. per 1,000, on 40,000	500	00
Sugar, at 1 dol. 25 c. per cwt.	2,500	00
Ad valorem duty on value of Imports, 250,000 dollars, at 5 per cent	12,500	00
Firearms, 100 per cent. on declared value at port of shipment.		

POSTAL.

Sale of stamps, &c.	2,500	00

SHIPPING.

Harbour, Pilot, and Light Dues	1,500	00

FEES, FINES, AND FORFEITURES.

Supreme Court, and Warden's Court, Levuka, &c.	1,500	00

TERRITORIAL.

Government realizations, including hire of Levoni men and profits of prison labour	7,500	00
Native taxes	50,000	00
Tax on all natives carrying firearms, 10,000 at 25 c.	2,500	00
Lease of Crown lands	500	00
Fees under Labour Act	500	00
Fees under Customs Act, warehouse charges, &c.	1,250	00
Miscellaneous revenue	2,500	00
Total	120,750	00

ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE.

CIVIL LIST.

Division 1.

	Dols.	c.	Dols.	c.
For the King's privy purse	7,500	00		

Division 2.

The Chief Justice and Chancellor of the Kingdom	3,750	00	
The First Associated Judge	2,500	00	
The Second Associated (or native) Judge	750	00	
The King's Cabinet Ministers, viz.—			
Chief Secretary, Minister of Trade and Commerce, Minister of Lands and Works, Minister of Finance, Minister of Native Affairs, to be divided between them as they agree amongst themselves, and if no agreement equally	12,500	00	
The Attorney-General	2,250	00	
The Provincial Governors	15,000	00	
The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly	2,500	00	
The Chairman of Committees of the Legislative Assembly	750	00	
The Auditor-General	1,750	00	
			49,250 00

Division No. 2.

Salary—			
His Excellency the Vice-Roy	4,000	00	
			4,000 00

LEGISLATIVE.

Division No. 3.

Salaries—			
1. Clerk and Registrar	500	00	
2. Messenger, also acting as tip-staff, crier, &c. in Supreme Court	900	00	
3. Acting Messenger, employed during Session	100	00	
4. Sergeant-at-Arms	250	00	
			1,750 00

Division No. 4.

	Dols. c.	Dols. c.
Contingencies—		
5. Printing	750 00	
6. Stationery	300 00	
7. Incidentals..	500 00	
8. Expenditure for reporting	500 00	
		2,050 00

CHIEF SECRETARY.

Division No. 6.

Salaries—		
1. Chief Clerk	1,500 00	
2. Junior Clerk	750 00	
		2,250 00

Division No. 7.

Contingencies—		
1. Stationery	2,000 00	
2. Incidentals	375 00	
3. Printing	2,500 00	
		4,875 00

POSTAL.

Division No. 8.

1. Postmaster-General	1,250 00	
2. Clerk	750 00	
		2,000 00

Division No. 9.

Contingencies—		
Payment of mails to foreign ports, mail bags, &c., sundries, contracts inter-insular, and Ocean Steam Postal Service	17,000 00	
Contracts for conveyance of mails overland..	1,000 00	
		18,000 00

JUDICIAL.

Division No. 10.

Salaries—		
1. Register of Supreme Court and Deputy Registrar-General	1,500 00	
2. Judge's Associates	1,000 00	
3. Warden of Provincial Court and Sheriff of Kingdom	1,750 00	
4. Clerk of Petty Sessions	900 00	
		5,150 00

Division No. 11.

Contingencies—		
1. Jury, witness, and coroner's fees	750 00	
2. Miscellaneous expenses for witnesses	750 00	
3. Incidentals..	250 00	
		1,750 00

Lands and Works, including Naval, Military, and Constabulary.

LANDS AND WORKS.

Division No. 12.

Salaries—		
1. Chief Clerk and Secretary to Lands Commission	1,250 00	
2. One Field Surveyor	1,250 00	
3. One Draughtsman	900 00	
		3,400 00

Division No. 12.

Contingencies—		
1. Instruments, parchment, and stationery	750 00	
2. Chainman's rations	125 00	
3. Surveyor's field allowance	155 00	
4. Travelling expenses	500 00	
		1,530 00

Division No. 13.

Works—		
1. Rent of public offices and King's residence	2,000 00	
2. Making road in Ovalau and public cemetery	700 00	
3. Stores and repairs to vessels and boats, public service	1,000 00	
4. Six boats for the use of secretaries, Customs, police, and other purposes ..	1,500 00	
		5,200 00

NAVAL, MILITARY, AND CONSTABULARY.

Division No. 14.

Salaries—	Dols. c.	Dols. c.
1. Major of Brigade	1,250 00	
2. Captain on Staff, also Inspector of Constabulary	1,250 00	
3. Lieutenant on Staff and Sub-Inspector	1,000 00	
4. Naval Lieutenant in command of "Vivid"	900 00	
5. Sergeant-Major and Instructor	800 00	
6. Constables (whites)	2,555 00	
7. Warder of Gaol	700 00	
8. Captain of Eastern Contingent	600 00	
9. Lieutenant and Travelling Inspector of Constabulary	250 00	
10. Lieutenants of Eastern Contingent	400 00	
11. Naval Lieutenant	200 00	
12. Interpreter	500 00	
		10,405 00

Division No. 15.

Contingencies—		
1. Boat charter and passage of police and prisoners	500 00	
2. Rations for prisoners in Levuka	1,000 00	
3. Stationery, fuel, light, and utensils	300 00	
4. Rations for crew of "Vivid"	200 00	
5. Passenger expenditure	250 00	
6. Clothing for Native Constabulary	500 00	
7. Equipments	250 00	
8. Incidentals	250 00	
		3,250 00

PENAL ESTABLISHMENT.

Division No. 16.

1. Quarters	250 00	
2. Rations for constables and prisoners, and trade used in purchasing same	1,000 00	
3. Tools, &c., used in cultivation of food for prisoners	250 00	
		1,500 00

TREASURER.

Division No. 17.

Salaries—		
1. Chief Clerk and Accountant	1,250 00	
2. Assistant Clerk	900 00	
		2,150 00

Division No. 17.

Contingencies—		
1. Incidentals (books, &c.)	250 00	
		250 00

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

Division No. 18.

Salaries—		
1. Pilot and Harbour-master	1,250 00	
2. Chief Clerk	1,250 00	
3. Clerk	1,000 00	
4. Warehouse-keeper and Clerk	750 00	
5. Native Clerk	125 00	
6. Customs or Boarding Officers	2,000 00	
		6,375 00

Division No. 19.

Contingencies—		
1. Rent for bonded warehouse, wharf, &c.	2,000 00	
2. Incidentals in harbour	500 00	
		2,500 00

NATIVE AFFAIRS.

Division No. 20.

Salaries—		
1. Native Commission and Chief Interpreter	2,000 00	
2. Clerk	1,000 00	
3. Native Clerks and Messenger, 3 at 125 dols.	375 00	
4. Secretaries to Governors	10,000 00	
5. Lieutenant-Governors, at 250 dols.	3,000 00	
		16,375 00

Division No. 21.

	Dols. c.	Dols. c.
Contingencies—		
1. Printing	750 00	
2. Stationery	250 00	
3. Travelling expenses of officers of Department in Provinces	400 00	
		1,400 00
		145,410 00

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.

Division No. 22.

Native Affairs—		
Twelve Senior native magistrates	2,000 00	
Extra interpreting expenses	500 00	
		2,500 00
Finance—		
Assessor of Lands for kingdom	1,250 00	
Interest on loan, 10.000 dols. at 10 per cent.	1,000 00	
Interest on debentures issued in excess of Loan Act	150 00	
Extra assessment expenses	1,000 00	
		3,400 00
Chief Secretary—		
Extra allowance for Health Officer, medical attendance, &c., on prisoners ..	750 00	
		750 00
Lands and Works—		
Office furniture and repairs to Government buildings..	1,500 00	
Customs extra incidentals	500 00	
Payment of members	1,750 00	
		3,750 00
Total expenditure		155,810 00

DEPENDENT ON FLOATING OF LOANS.

Native affairs—		
Printing, stationery expenses, and printing press	3,200 00	
Naval and military—		
For purchase of steam-vessel	25,000 00	
Naval and military purposes	25,000 00	
Chief Secretary—		
Hospital subsidy	1,000 00	
Postal—		
Ocean steam service	7,500 00	
Public works for reproductive purposes	30,000 00	
Library	500 00	
		92,200 00

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES OF REVENUE.

Alteration of tobacco impost	3,000 00	
Fees, fines, and forfeitures in Provincial Courts, and profits of prison labour in provinces	3,000 00	
Retail and wholesale wine, spirit, and beer licenses	2,000 00	
		8,000 00
Realization from extra estimate of Levoni labourers	2,000 00	
		2,000 00
Land taxes, as per Revenue Act	15,000 00	
		15,000 00
		25,000 00

No. 25.

(R.)

FIJI.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Memoranda relating to the Treasurer's Financial Statement, to May 31, 1873.

(Laid on the Table of the House, June 9, 1873.)

(No. 1.)—STATEMENT showing the General Liability of the Kingdom to date, on Loan Account and Treasury Notes in Circulation.

	Dols.	c.
Realization to date on authorized loans	133,225	00
Loss and charges in raising the same, as per statement No. 2	37,221	84
	170,446	84
Treasury notes in circulation, as per statement No. 3	31,189	25
Total liability on the above accounts	201,636	09

(No. 2.—STATEMENT showing Loss in Raising Loans authorized in 1871 and 1872.

	Dols.	c.	Dols.	c.	Dols.	c.
Loan authorized in 1871	25,000	00				
Debentures issued realized	21,500	00				
			3,500	00		
Charges, brokerage, &c.			709	50		
					4,209	50
Loan authorized in 1872	140,000	00				
Debentures issued realized	111,725	00				
			28,275	00		
Charges, brokerage, &c.			4,737	34		
					33,012	34
Total sum short raised					37,221	84

(No. 3.—STATEMENT showing the Circulation of Treasury Notes on the 31st May, 1873, and the Net Issue during the present Year.

	Dols.	c.
Circulation of Treasury notes on 30th June, 1872	25,110	00
Notes issued from 1st July, 1872, to 31st May, 1873	34,232	50
Total issue	59,342	50
Notes cancelled from 1st July to 31st May	28,153	25
Actual circulation, 31st May	31,189	25
Deduct amount in circulation on 30th June, 1872	25,110	00
Net issue during present year	6,079	25

(No. 4.)—SUMMARY of Loan Votes, Loan Expenditure, and Unexpended Loan Balance, to 31st May, 1873.

Nature of Appropriation, as per No. 39, C.R.	Expenditure on Loan authorized by Act of Appropriation.	Total Expenditure to Date.	Balance.	
			Dr.	Cr.
	Dols. c.	Dols. c.	Dols. c.	Dols. c.
Printing, stationery, and printing press	3,200 00	4,399 14	1,199 14	..
Purchase of steam vessel	25,000 00	..	..	25,000 00
Naval and military	25,000 00	29,330 35	4,330 35	..
Hospital subsidy	1,000 00	500 00	..	500 00
Ocean steam subsidy	7,500 00	..	..	7,500 00
Reproductive works	30,000 00	10,124 50	..	19,875 50
Library	500 00	194 12	..	305 88
Total expenditure authorized ..	92,200 00	..	5,529 49	53,181 38
Total expenditure	44,548 11	44,548 11	..	..
Balance unexpended on authorized appropriation	47,651 89	..	..	..

(No. 5.)—STATEMENT showing the Receipts and Expenditure to date on Revenue Account, in accordance with the Appropriation Act, 1872.

RECEIPTS.

	Dols.	c.	Dols.	c.
Customs Duties			41,533	76
Postal—				
Sale of stamps			3,151	75
Shipping—				
Harbour, pilot, and light dues, and shipping licenses			2,102	81
Fees, Fines, and Forfeitures—				
Supreme Court fees, Provincial Court fees, Warden's Court fees			4,057	43
Territorial—				
Hire of Levoni men and profits of prison labour	10,331	22		
Native taxes	28,908	53		
Fees under Labour Acts	2,963	24		
Fees under Custom's Act, warehouse charges, &c.	125	93		
			42,328	92
Wholesale, retail, and wine, spirit, and beer licenses			1,065	61
Land taxes			6,350	17
Miscellaneous revenue			512	65
Total			101,103	10

EXPENDITURE.

Civil List			33,988	51
Legislative—				
Salaries	1,307	03		
Payment of Members	1,185	00		
Contingencies	1,500	66		
			3,992	69
Chief Secretary's Department—				
Salaries	1,337	16		
Health officer	667	50		
Contingencies	8,859	32		
			10,863	98
Postal—				
Salaries	1,666	60		
Contingencies	625	75		
			2,292	35
Judicial—				
Salaries	4,179	26		
Contingencies	1,912	22		
			6,091	48
Lands and Works—				
Salaries	2,086	71		
Contingencies	240	64		
Office furniture and repairs to Government buildings	2,740	77		
Works	5,304	50		
			10,372	62
Naval and Military and Armed Constabulary—				
Salaries	7,401	10		
Contingencies	3,250	00		
			10,651	10
Penal Establishment—				
Sundries	1,500	00		
			1,500	00
Treasury Department—				
Salaries	1,791	60		
Assessor of Lands	1,041	60		
Interest on loan	317	87		
Interest on Debentures issued in excess of Loan Act	163	28		
Contingencies	237	41		
Extra assessment expenses	890	42		
			4,442	18
Trade and Commerce—				
Salaries	4,826	40		
Contingencies	1,058	36		
			5,884	76
Native Affairs—				
Salaries	11,131	47		
Senior native Magistrate	469	20		
Contingencies	1,577	31		
Extra interpreting expenses	219	25		
			13,397	23
Royal Commission			1,317	11
Rebate account			1,756	01
Total			106,550	02

(No. 6.)—COMPARATIVE Statement of the Probable Receipts and Expenditure of the Kingdom on Revenue Account, for the Year ending 30th June, 1873, compared with the Estimates as contained in the Appropriation Act, 1872.

RECEIPTS.

Department.	Estimate of Receipts as per Appropriation Act, 1872.	Probable Receipts to June 30.		
		Received to Date per Statement No. 5.	Estimate for Unexpired Portion of the Year.	Probable Receipts.
	Dols. c.	Dols. c.	Dols. c.	Dols. c.
Customs duties	53,500 00	41,533 76	8,306 65	49,840 41
Postal	2,500 00	3,151 75	630 35	3,782 10
Shipping	1,500 00	2,102 81	420 56	2,523 37
Fees, fines, and forfeitures ..	4,500 00	4,057 43	812 78	4,870 21
Territorial	66,750 00	42,328 92	8,465 58	50,794 50
Land Tax	15,000 00	6,350 17	1,270 03	7,620 20
Wine, spirit, and beer licenses ..	2,000 00	1,065 61	213 32	1,278 93
Miscellaneous	..	512 65	102 53	615 18
	145,750 00	101,103 10	20,221 80	121,324 90

Probable deficiency in revenue on estimates, 1872-73 .. .. 24,425 10

EXPENDITURE.

Department.	Estimate of Expenditure as per Appropriation Act, 1872.	Probable Expenditure to June 30.		
		Expended to Date per Statement No. 5.	Estimates for Unexpired Term.	Probable Expenditure.
	Dols. c.	Dols. c.	Dols. c.	Dols. c.
Civil List	53,250 00	33,988 51	6,851 86	40,840 37
Legislature	5,550 00	3,992 69	830 00	4,822 69
Chief Secretary	7,875 00	10,863 98	2,172 79	13,036 77
Postal	20,000 00	2,292 35	458 47	2,750 82
Judicial	6,900 00	6,091 48	1,218 29	7,309 77
Lands and works	11,630 00	10,372 62	2,076 33	12,448 95
Naval and military and armed constabulary	13,655 00	10,651 10	1,480 20	12,131 30
Penal establishment	1,500 00	1,500 00	..	1,500 00
Treasurer	5,800 00	4,442 18	888 43	5,330 61
Trade and commerce	9,375 00	5,884 76	1,176 99	7,061 75
Native affairs	20,275 00	13,397 23	2,662 78	16,060 01
Refund account	..	1,756 01	351 20	2,107 21
Royal Commission for quieting land titles	..	1,317 11	303 62	1,620 73
	155,810 00	106,550 02	20,470 96	127,020 98

Probable saving in expenditure on estimates, 1872-73 .. .. 28,789 02

(No. 7.)—COMPARATIVE Statement showing the Total Probable Expenditure on all Accounts for the Year ending 30th June, 1873, as compared with the Appropriation Act, 1872.

TOTAL APPROPRIATION.

	Dols. c.	Dols. c.
General estimates Supplementary estimates	155,810 00	
For outstanding liabilities	21,901 37	
Dependent on floating of loan	92,200 00	
		269,911 37

TOTAL EXPENDITURE.

		Dols. c.	Dols. c.
Probable expenditure on general and supplementary estimates, per statement No. 6.		127,020 98	
Outstanding liabilities liquidated		56,850 79	
Expenditure on loan account, per statement No. 4		44,548 11	
Add probable expenditure to end of year—			
Military and naval	$5,860 00		
Reproductive purposes	2,500 00		
		8,360 00	
Interest on loan paid to date		9,812 50	
			246,592 38
Probable total saving on appropriation			23,318 99

(Signed) W. M. OLLIVIER, *Auditor-General.*

(Signed) G. A. WOODS.

No. 26.

(S.)

Estimates of the Probable Ways and Means and Expenditure of the Kingdom of Fiji for the Financial Year 1873-74*; laid on the Table of the Legislative Assembly the* 31*st May,* 1873*, but not passed.*

PROBABLE WAYS AND MEANS.

REVENUE ESTIMATES, 1873-74.

CUSTOMS DUTIES.

	Dol. c.		Dol. c.	Dol. c.
Spirits, &c., calculated on 20,000 gallons, at	1 75		35,000 00	
Wines, &c., „ 4,000 „	0 75		3,000 00	
Beer, &c., „ 8,500 „	0 50		4,250 00	
Tobacco, manufactured „ 25 per cent. *ad valorem*			2,800 00	
Cigars, „ „ 700 at	1 25 per lb.		875 00	
Sugar 16,000 lbs. at	1 25 per cwt.		2,000 00	
Ad valorem duty on 200,000 dollars at $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.			15,000 00	
Customs, fees, and warehouse charges			800 00	
				63,725 00

SHIPPING DUES.

Harbour and light dues		2,000 00

TERRITORIAL.

Miscellaneous receipts on account of 1871-72	20,000 00	
Native taxes	60,000 00	
Fees, fines, and forfeitures	4,500 00	
Fees under Labour Act	3,200 00	
Spirit licenses	1,500 00	
Postal and stamp duties	3,000 00	
Land tax on non-resident proprietors	4,000 00	
Foreign labour tax	750 00	
Sale of Crown lands	12,500 00	
Special tax on natives, Province of Macuata, as per Resolution of Legislature, 1872	10,000 00	
Miscellaneous	500 00	
		119,950 00
Total estimated Revenue		185,675 00

(Signed) G. A. WOODS.

The Treasury, Fiji, May 31, 1873.

PROBABLE EXPENDITURE.

SCHEDULES A, B, C.

SUMMARY.

SCHEDULE (A).

	Dol. c.
Civil List	53,750 00

SCHEDULE (B).

	Dol. c.	Dol. c.
Public Departments—		
Legislative	5,000 00	
Interior	35,650 00	
Justice and Foreign Relations	29,184 00	
Finance and Trade	16,961 79	
		86,795 79

SCHEDULE (C).

Interest and Sinking Fund	45,129 21
Total	185,675 00

(Signed) G. A. WOODS.

The Treasury, Fiji, May 31, 1873.

ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE.

SCHEDULE (A).

CIVIL LIST.

Division No. 1.

	Dol. c.	Dol. c.	Dol. c.
For the King's Privy Purse	7,500 00		

Division No. 2.

The Chief Justice and Chancellor of the Kingdom	3,750 00		
The first Associated Judge	2,500 00		
The second Associated, or Native Judge	750 00		
The King's Cabinet Ministers, viz.:—Minister of Interior, Minister of Foreign Relations, Minister of Finance and Trade	8,500 00		
The Attorney-General	2,000 00		
The Provincial Governors	25,000 00		
The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly	2,000 00		
The Chairman of Committees and Legislative Assembly	750 00		
The Auditor-General	1,000 00		
		53,750 00	
			53,750 00

SCHEDULE (B).

Public Departments.

LEGISLATIVE.

Division No. 1.

Salaries—			
1. One Clerk of Parliaments and Committees, and short-hand writer to Government	1,500 00		
2. One Assistant Clerk of Assembly during Session	200 00		
3. One Usher and housekeeper	750 00		
4. One Messenger employed during Session	100 00		
5. One Sergeant-at-Arms	150 00		
		2,700 00	

Division No. 2.

Contingencies—			
1. Stationery	300 00		
2. Incidentals	500 00		
3. Privy Council mess expenses	500 00		
4. Session mess expenses, Legislative Council	1,000 00		
		2,300 00	
Total Legislative		5,000 00	
			5,000 00

Department of Interior.

LANDS AND WORKS.

Division No. 1.

	Dol. c.	Dol. c.	Dol. c.
Salaries—			
1. One Field Surveyor and Clerk of Works	1,500 00		
2. One Clerk	1,000 00		
3. One Overseer of Works	1,000 00		
		3,500 00	

Division No. 2.

Contingencies—			
1. Instruments and parchment	250 00		
2. Surveyor's field allowance	155 00		
3. Travelling expenses	500 00		
4. Rent of Public Offices	2,020 00		
5. Erection of gaol	2,500 00		
6. Stationery for Public Service	3,000 00		
7. Furniture and stores	1,500 00		
8. Repairs to buildings	1,000 00		
9. Freights	500 00		
10. Incidentals	500 00		
		11,925 00	
		15,425 00	
			15,425 00

NATIVE AFFAIRS.

Division No. 1.

Salaries—			
1. One Native Commissioner	2,500 00		
2. One Clerk	1,000 00		
3. One Assistant Clerk	500 00		
4. Provincial Secretaries	12,000 00		
5. Five Senior Native Magistrates	2,000 00		
6. One Messenger	125 00		
		18,125 00	

Division No. 2.

Contingencies—			
1. Travelling expenses of Officer of Departments in Provinces ..	800 00		
2. Interpreting expenses	800 00		
3. Incidentals	500 00		
		2,100 00	
		20,225 00	
			20,225 00

Department of Justice and Foreign Relations.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

Division No. 1.

Salaries—			
1. One Under Secretary to Government	1,500 00		
2. One Clerk	1,000 00		
3. One Chief Medical and Health Officer	750 00		
		3,250 00	

Division No. 2.

Contingencies—			
Incidentals..	500 00		
		500 00	
		3,750 00	
			3,750 00

JUDICIAL.

Division No. 1.

Salaries—			
1. One Registrar of Supreme Court	1,500 00		
2. Two Judges Associates, one at 750 dols., one at 500 dols. ..	1,250 00		
3. One Sheriff and Governor of Goal, also Curator of Intestate Estates	1,750 00		
4. One Clerk of Provincial Court, Central Province	900 00		
5. One Interpreter to Supreme Court	1,000 00		
6. One Crier, Tipstaff, and Messenger	750 00		
		7,150 00	

Division No. 2.

	Dol. c.	Dol. c.	Dol. c.
Contingencies—			
1. Coroner's fees	500 00		
2. Jury and witness..	1,000 00		
3. Incidentals	300 00		
4. Circuit expenses	500 00		
		2,300 00	
		9,450 00	
			9,450 00

PENAL ESTABLISHMENT.

Division No. 1.

Salaries—			
1. One Chief Warder	900 00		
2. One Sergeant of Police	730 00		
3. Three Constables at 360 dols.	1,080 00		
4. Six Native Constables	144 00		
		2,854 00	

Division No. 2.

Contingencies—			
1. Rations for white prisoners	650 00		
2. Rations for native prisoners	1,000 00		
3. Passage-money for police and prisoners	375 00		
4. Incidentals	750 00		
		2,775 00	
		5,629 00	
			5,629 00

POSTAL.

Division No. 1.

Salaries—			
1. One Postmaster-General	1,250 00		
2. One Clerk	850 00		
		2,100 00	

Division No. 2.

Contingencies—			
1. Postal Service	2,000 00		
2. Incidentals	250 00		
		2,250 00	
		4,350 00	
			4,350 00

GOVERNMENT PRINTING.

Division No. 1.

Salaries—			
1. One Government printer	1,300 00		
2. One messenger and folder	195 00		
		1,495 00	

Division No. 2.

Contingencies—			
1. Compositors	2,600 00		
2. Pressmen	260 00		
3. Paper and parchment	500 00		
4. Stores	150 00		
5. Incidentals and reporting	1,000 00		
		4,510 00	
		6,005 00	
			6,005 00

Department of Finance and Trade.

TREASURY.

Division No. 1.

Salaries—			
1. One Accountant and Cashier	1,250 00		
2. One Assistant and Clerk	1,000 00		
		2,250 00	

Division No. 2.

Contingencies—			
Incidentals..	250 00		
		250 00	
		2,500 00	
			2,500 00

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

Division No. 1.

	Dol. c.	Dol. c.	Dol. c.
Salaries—			
1. One Collector of Customs	1,250 00		
2. One Assistant ditto and Clerk	1,000 00		
3. One Warehouse Keeper and Landing Waiter	750 00		
4. Two Customs' Officers at 750 dols.	1,500 00		
5. One Collector of Customs, Loma Loma	500 00		
6. One ditto, ditto, Suva	375 00		
		5,375 00	

Division No. 2.

Contingencies—			
Incidentals..	1,000 00		
		1,000 00	
		6,375 00	
			6,375 00

MISCELLANEOUS.

1. Compensation (pursuant to resolution of Legislature) granted to certain Dreketi Settlers, Province of Macuata, for destruction of property by natives			8,086 79

SCHEDULE (C).

INTEREST ON PUBLIC LOAN.

1. Interest on debentures issued to State	16,500 00		
2. Sinking Fund on account of Loan	28,629 00		
		45,129 21	
			45,129 21
Total Expenditure		.. ..	185,675 00

(Signed) G. A. WOODS.

The Treasury, Fiji, May 31, 1873.

No. 27.

(Signed) CAKOBAU R.

Witness to the signature of His Majesty,
(Signed) HENRY T. MILNE, *H.M.P.S.*

Order in Council.

At the Privy Council Chambers, Levuka, Fiji, this 19th day of August, 1873.

Present:

HIS MAJESTY THE KING IN COUNCIL.

WHEREAS an agreement has been made between Charles Howard Clarkson, Esq., Our Minister of Finance, acting for and on behalf of Our Government, and Frederick Whitaker, Esq., of Auckland, in the British Colony of New Zealand, for and on behalf of the Fiji Banking and Commercial Company, Limited:

And whereas the said Fiji Banking and Commercial Company, Limited (hereinafter called the Company) have agreed to establish and carry on business in our Kingdom of Fiji, and especially to establish a bank of issue and deposit:

And whereas, as the establishment of the said Company will be highly advantageous to our Government and people, and must greatly facilitate the extension of trade and commerce, and develop the latent resources of our kingdom, it is right and expedient that certain privileges be granted to the said Company, subject to certain conditions hereinafter set forth:

And whereas such privileges and conditions having been mutually agreed to by the Agent of the Company as aforesaid:

We are, for ourself and people, willing and prepared, for the reasons aforesaid, to recognize, ratify, and confirm the said agreement:

And whereas the political compact made between ourself on the part of our natural-born subjects the people of Fiji, and the alien white residents in our Kingdom having been broken and infringed upon by the latter, and, moreover, that the fundamental principles thereof have been impaired and set aside by extra-territorial influences which we have been unable to avert, necessitating, by reason of

such breach and infringement, an alteration of the Constitution of 1871, under the provisions of which a Legislative Assembly will not be summoned to meet again :

And whereas the whole power and authority of the Fijian nation is, therefore, now centered in, represented and exercised by ourself, Chiefs, and Ministers in Privy Council assembled ; and the orders of ourself in such Council have, and is hereby ordered shall have, the fullest power to bind ourself and national properties and revenues, and the legislative body in future assembled, to all such bonds, agreements, privileges, and charters, as we decide are expedient or necessary to the benefit and welfare of our Kingdom and people :

Be it therefore ordered and enacted—

1. This Order and enactment may be cited for all purposes as the Fiji Banking and Commercial Company's Charter, 1873.

2. In the construction of this Charter, the word "Banker" shall extend and apply to all corporations, partnerships, and persons, carrying on the business of banking, whether by the issue of bank notes or otherwise. The word "cash" shall mean the current gold, silver, and copper coins of Great Britain at British Mint prices, and the several coins specified in the first schedule of this Charter at the respective values in British coin thereto severally affixed.

3. No Charter, Acts, Banking privileges, or concessions, for the purpose of Banking shall be granted to or conferred upon any other Company, person, or persons, during the continuance of fourteen years hereinafter reserved.

4. The persons who now are members of the Company, together with such other persons as may from time to time become and be members thereof, are hereby constituted a body corporate by the name of "The Fiji Banking and Commercial Company, Limited."

5. The Company may exercise all the functions and powers, and enjoy all the rights and privileges, and be subject to the liabilities and none other of a body corporate, and shall have perpetual succession and a common seal.

6. It shall be lawful for the Company to establish and carry on all or any part of the business, and to do all or any of the matters and things specified in their Memorandum of Association, under which the Company has been formed, and a copy whereof is set forth in the second schedule of this Charter.

7. The Bank to be established by the Company under this Charter shall be the National Bank of the Kingdom of Fiji, and such shall exclusively be entitled to manage and transact all Banking, Financial and Mercantile business of the Government of Fiji, upon the terms already agreed on between the Treasurer of Fiji and the Company, subject to such alteration as may from time to time be mutually agreed on.

8. Every Bank note to be issued by the Company shall be expressed to be payable in cash, and shall, except at the principal office in Fiji, at which the banking business of the Company shall be carried on, be a legal tender.

9. The bearer of any such note shall be entitled on demand at the said office, during office hours, to receive payment in cash for such note, at the rate therein provided, and the manager of such office is hereby required to pay the same.

10. It shall not be lawful for any Banker (other than the Company) to draw, accept, make, or issue, in the Kingdom of Fiji, any note or engagement for the payment of money on demand.

11. If any Banker other than the Company shall draw, accept, make, or issue, any bill or note for the payment of money on demand, such Banker shall forfeit and pay for every such offence the sum of twenty pounds, and every such bill or note which shall hereafter be drawn, accepted, made, or issued, shall be absolutely void and of no effect.

12. Provided always that nothing herein contained shall extend to or prohibit any draft, or order, drawn by any person or his Banker, or any person acting as such Banker for the payment of money held by such Banker or person to the use of the person by whom such draft or order shall be drawn or made.

13. All notes, bills, bonds, securities, and other documents, made or issued by the Company shall be exempt from stamp and other duties and taxes, and no direct duty, tax, or impost shall be levied or imposed on the Company.

14. Whenever the Government of Fiji shall be indebted to the Company, on any account whatsoever, it shall be competent for the manager of the Company's Bank, at their principal place of business in Fiji, to apply to the King's Treasurer for a certificate, stating the amount to which the Government are so indebted, and the Treasurer shall give such certificate accordingly.

15. On obtaining such certificate it shall be lawful for the said manager to require the said Treasurer on behalf of the Government to make and issue from time to time such notes payable to bearer on demand as the said manager may require, not exceeding the amount expressed in such certificate as due from the Government to the Company, and the said Treasurer shall issue the notes so from time to time required as aforesaid to the Company.

16. No such note shall be made for a less sum than any amount equal in value to one pound British money, and every such note shall be a legal tender.

17. The notes so issued, shall be taken by the Company in satisfaction of so much of the amounts due by the Government to the Company, as the sums expressed in the said notes shall in the aggregate amount to.

18. If at any time any extraordinary emergency shall arise, and His Majesty's Government shall be satisfied that the Company possess ample funds elsewhere than in Fiji to meet any demands made on it, His Majesty may, on the application of the Company, or their principal Manager at Fiji, declare by Proclamation, that the Bank notes of the Company shall be a legal tender, for any time not exceeding six calendar months, to be fixed by Proclamation.

19. All notes to be issued by the Treasurer, on behalf of the Government, and all Bank notes issued by the Company, so far as herein declared to be a legal tender, shall be taken to be valid as a

tender to the amount expressed in such notes, respectively, for all sums above five pounds sterling, British money; and on all occasions on which tender of money may be made.

20. There shall be conveyed to the Company, by Crown Grant, free of all cost and expense, on their request, in one or more blocks of country land, as may be convenient, any number of acres, not exceeding ten thousand, that they may select out of land at the disposal of the Government.

21. This Charter shall come into operation at the day of the date hereof, and sections (7) seven to (20) twenty, both inclusive, shall continue in operation for fourteen years only from that date. Provided always that if the Company shall fail to establish a Bank within twelve calendar months from the date hereof, this Charter shall cease to have any operation, and shall be of no force or effect whatever.

FIRST SCHEDULE.

American.

Dollar: Four shillings and two pence, British current coin.
Other American gold, silver, and copper coins at a proportionate value British current coin.

French.

Franc; Tenpence, British current coin.
Other French gold, silver, and copper coins at a proportionate value British current coin.

SECOND SCHEDULE.

Memorandum of Association of the Fiji Banking and Commercial Company, Limited.

1. The name of the Company is the "Fiji Banking and Commercial Company (Limited)."

2. The registered office of the Company is to be established in the City of Auckland, in the Province of Auckland, in the Colony of New Zealand.

3. The objects for which the Company is established are as follows:—

I. To establish and carry on the business of a Bank of Issue and Deposit to Lend Money and Cash, Credit Promissory Notes, Bills of Exchange, or Letters of Credit, and on other securities; to deal in money, bullion, specie, and exchanges of and with all countries, and in Notes, Bills of Exchange, or other securities, and generally to transact all such other business as it is, or shall, or may at any time hereafter be usual or lawful for establishments carrying on Banking in all its branches, or dealing in money, bullion, specie, exchanges; or in notes bills, or loans, to do or transact.

II. To establish branches, agencies, or connections in relation to the said business, wherever it may be considered desirable to do so.

III. To invest and lend money generally, and especially in connection with the Kingdom of Fiji, and the Trade and Commerce thereof.

IV. To acquire, establish, undertake, and transact commercial business of every description.

V. To make advances on the security of real and personal properties; or of merchandize, stocks, effects, or securities of any description whatsoever.

VI. To borrow and take up money at interest, or otherwise; and to enter into contracts or obligations, by Bonds, Bills, Notes, Mortgages, or otherwise, and either as principals or as sureties.

VII. To acquire, buy, manage, let, lease, sell, mortgage, or otherwise dispose of land, either as Principles or Agents.

VIII. To do all things which may be incidental or apparently conducive to the attainment and carrying out of all or any of the above objects.

4. The liability of the Shareholders is limited.

5. The nominal capital of the Company is Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Pownds, divided into Fifty Thousand Shares, of Five Pounds each.

(Signed) MAAFU.
TEVITA ULUI.
CAPELA NAPOLIONI.
TAVA RECE.
CAVI DEVATA.
G. A. WOODS.
HOWARD CLARKSON.
ROBERT S. SWANSTONE.
TUI CAKAU.
RATU KINI.
DARA NA VALU.
MATA NA TABUA.
TUI NOCO.
NA GAGA BOKOLA.

Witnesses to the signatures of the above Chiefs and Ministers:
(Signed) HENRY T. MILNE, *H.M.P.S.*
D. WILKINSON, *Interpreter.*

By command,
(Signed) JOHN B. THURSTON, *Chief Secretary.*

No. 28.

AREA, in English Statute Miles, of the Fiji Group.

	Sq. Miles.		Sq. Miles.
Viti Levu	4,112	Matuku	11
Vanua Levu	2,432½	Totoya	11
Tavinni	217¾	Mango	10
Kadavu	124½	Cicia	10
Windward Isles	59	Nairai	10
Agau	46	Goro	57¾
Ovalau	42½	Laucala	9
Rabi	28	Kea	9
Moala	28	Maitamba	9
Gamia	26	Kanacia	8
Loma Loma..	24	Mokani	4¼
Vatu Lele	18½	Batiki	4
Ono	13	Other isles, probably	40
Bega	13		
Yedua	13½	Total	7,403¾
Lakeba	12		

7,403 square miles equal 4,738,350 acres.

No. 29.

Extract from a Paper of Mr. C. R. Forwood, K.A., on Land Titles in Fiji, dated December 8, 1873.

THE tribal and inter-tribal rights were very much in this way:

Each little town in Fiji had its petty Chiefs, who claimed for himself and family territorial and personal rights over the town and adjacent townlands, those necessary for food required by the inhabitants, which consist generally of the yam flats, kumula patches, banana and cocoa-nut groves, and bread-fruit and other fruit producing ridges.

There are, however, in many districts small plots attached to what are known as "Tankeis," on condition or as a reward for their keeping such plots in cultivation, and these persons, though subservient to the petty Chiefs, are yet a shade above the "kai si" or slave, who has no personal rights, even to the fruit of his own labour.

The townspeople in some places have, I believe, a sort of common interest in some lands which are only dealt with after they have held a meeting on the subject.

Then there is the Chief of a small district who has territorial rights over all unappropriated lands in that district, and some personal and political privileges (including command) over the petty Chiefs and townspeople within his range; besides which he may have certain special lands which are considered his private property.

All these Chiefs, petty Chiefs, "tankies," and "kaisis" are again congregated under a bigger Chief or "Ratu," who, besides exercising manorial, personal, and political rights over them, has usually large blocks of land which are considered his private property.

These "Ratus" in their turn, with all beneath them, were subject to the "Tui" (King) of the province, who had absolute dominion over person and property, and was, besides, the largest private landowner in the district, and, it is believed, claimed absolute sovereignty over all waste lands, rivers, creeks, waters, and mountains; and when he pleased could raise levies and contributions.

The great Chiefs, or "Tuis," among each other have a custom of begging ("keri-keri") aids and heavy contributions from each other, which must not be refused on pain of war, but are usually reciprocated; except, however, that the more powerful claim it as a right or vassalage from their weaker neighburs, it is doubtful whether it carries with it territorial rights within the neighbour's dominions.

The "Tuis," however, all exacted certain periodical contributions from the "Ratus" and petty Chiefs and townships in their provinces.

Besides all this, there is the right of "vasu" from relatives of a lower degree to the representative of the higher class or degree, and the rights of consanguinity all flow through the mother, the paternal affinity being disregarded; for example, the Queen (Lydia) is of higher territorial rank than the King (Cakobau), and consequently her relations, by reason of the King's marriage, can claim from His Majesty himself "vasu" of anything they set their minds upon, although he has several times threatened the claimants with personal chastisement if they insisted, and consequently they do not in his case often try it on: this right is, however, rather personal than territorial.

When lands are transferred, either by conquest, gift, or sale, possession (or as English lawyers would say, "livery of seizure") is actually transferred, partly by the transfer being made public in the adjacent towns, partly by going on the land and declaring it the new owners, and partly by building a house or a fence, or planting upon it by the old owner for the new one; and where this is done for a white man, he is immediately called the "Turaga" or Chief of that land, and is independent lord of its soil, with no superior or right of vassalage remaining in the native Chiefs, "Ratus" or "Tuis," whose special consents are, however, necessary if any such right is acknowledged over the particular plot by the vendors.

The foregoing will, it is thought, form a sufficient guide to the King's territorial rights in the soil of the kingdom on his becoming its acknowledged King, and go to explain that phrase in the Con-

stitution Act (copied from the Hawaïan) which declares that "the King is Sovereign of all the Chiefs and people. The Kingdom is his;" followed by the declaration, "The King's private lands and other property are inviolable" (*vide* sections 35 and 40).

In Mr. Forwood's opinion no interest in the soil is by the Constitution Act transferred to or vested in the King, merely the chief magistracy and political superiority; but by the Administration of Justice Act, 1871, passed by the first Assembly, and assented to by the King and Privy Council (including the great Chiefs), "the principles and practice of English law, as followed in the Supreme Court of the Colony of Victoria in Australia" (save in so far as then already or thereafter altered by express Fijian legislation), were declared to be the rule and standard of Fijian law and practice.

In England, where all lands (not being part of the Royal domains) have been alienated into private lands for centuries, it is a mere "theory of the law" that every freehold was created by a grant from the Crown at some remote period beyond the time which it is necessary to adduce title as legally existing in the vendor or his predecessors. It is, I say, mere theory, for it is well known that thousands of acres are held on continuous titles beginning long before "the Conquest."

In the Colonies, express legislation has rendered it necessary that the Crown grant, obtained in particular modes, should begin or confirm the titles, and its necessity wholly arises from the Statute,—which, by the bye, was not acknowledged in some cases where the property was acquired previously.

In New Zealand large tracts were obtained from the natives, which Royal Commissioners cut down in extent, and under the statute a Crown grant for the amount of land, recommended by the Commissioners only, was issued, and the residue seized upon by the Government. Some of the old purchasers carried the matter before the Imperial authorities, and in the end large compensation was awarded for these arbitrary confiscations.

In Fiji, subsequently to the Admistration of Justice Act (although passed in the same Assembly and assented to on the same day), and after a Crown Lands Bill had been thrown out mainly on the ground that it proposed to vest in the Crown, lands and waters which were either claimed by white purchasers or by the native Chiefs and owners, the then Minister of Lands (the present Premier) poked into "An Act to Organize the Executive Department," the clauses referred to below contrary to section 76 of the Constitution Act which declares that, "to avoid improper influences which may result from intermixing in one and the same Act such things as have no proper relation to each other, every law shall embrace but one object, and that shall be expressed in its title."

These clauses are comprised in a code or schedule to the Executive Act, and provide for a cession of private lands to the Government—for the ascertainment of Government lands, for their disposition and management, the form of "fee-simple patents," their leasing—and creates a Board of Commissioners to "investigate and finally ascertain or reject all claims of private individuals whether natives or foreigners to any landed property acquired anterior to the passage of that Act, the awards of which Board shall be binding on all parties," which Board is "to exist two years," and then declares "all claims to land as against the Fijian Government which are not presented to said Board shall be deemed invalid and for ever barred in law." By one of the first of said clauses, all lands ceded to the "Fijian Government" [*sic*] and ascertained to belong to it are declared to be allodial; a tenure opposed to the idea which the original feudal tenure inspires in England, that all lands are held from a superior Lord or by conditional grant from the King. The clauses also declare that lands sold by the Government and "patented," as set out in the form given, "shall never revert to the King, nor escheat to the Government for any other cause than attainder, nor be diverted from the patentee or his assigns except by operation of law under sale in virtue of a judicial decree."

Now, it will be seen that nothing contained in these erratic provisions gives the King any estate in lands already held outside the Crown by purchasers or native owners, unless after two years' sitting of the Board the Fijian Government set up a claim to lands which have not been passed by the Commissioners (a very possible event in the present temper of the Executive, and one amounting, if effected, to wholesale plunder and confiscation not justifiable under the Constitution of 1871).

Consequently, unless lands passed by the Commissioners are surrendered or conveyed to His Majesty, the Crown grant issued to the successful claimant, inoperative to pass any estate, is, in fact, a mere "hall mark," or acknowledgment by the Government of the claimants right, and would not be pleadable against the claim of some adverse private individual, and being, in form, not a grant to the claimant and his heirs, but to his personal representatives and assigns merely, amounts (if construed to be operative as a "grant") to a lease for life only of the freehold.

But in addition to the objection that the 76th section of the Constitution Act prohibits the importation into the Executive of clauses defining the relations and holding of persons interested in land, there is the further objection that, although the Constitution Act declares (section 21) that "the supreme power in its exercise is divided into the executive, legislative, and judicial, and these shall always be preserved distinct, and no Judge of a Court of Record shall ever be a member of the Legislative Assembly;" the Board, which is created as part of the Executive system, has always been composed of members of the Legislative Assembly (excepting as to those appointments only), and is bound to record its proceedings, exercises judicial functions, which are declared to be final, and the Executive deny that any appeal lies to the Supreme Court.

It seems, therefore, to Mr. Forwood that the present policy of the Fijian Government, with reference to land, titles, and the issue of Crown grants, is not based on law, is false in principle, and will, as soon as the Commissioner's two years have run out, be productive of the greatest injustice, not only to the white residents but also to the native owners throughout the country, and will besides unsettle mortgage securities. and so destroy our credit with the capitalists of other countries to a ruinous extent.

(Signed) C. R. FORWOOD.

To Commodore Goodenough,
Her Britannic Majesty's Naval Forces now in Fijian Waters,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 30.

APPROXIMATE Area of Lands in Figi held or Leased by Foreign Residents.

District.	Number of Plantations.	Area of Holding.	Area Cultivated.	Area Uncultivated.
		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Tai Levu	24	17,605	727	16,878
Ba	27	66,234	829	65,405
Korotubu	29	75,413	586	74,827
Yasawas	11	16,970	250	16,720
Nadi and Vuda	21	41,180	783	40,397
Navua	18	9,000	500	8,500
Nadroga	38	34,315	502	33,813
Suva	79	15,490	366	15,124
Upper Rewa	58	20,697	1,234	19,463
Lower Rewa	36	9,363	85	9,278
Ovalau	18	22,641	447	22,194
Savu Savu	60	54,105	795	53,310
Bua	26	71,590	378	71,212
Dreketi	25	42,753	156	42,597
Maçuata	31	225,040	438	224,602
Natawa	27	64,822	350	64,472
Tavinui	68	42,804	3,353	39,451
Lau	30	17,129	4,560	12,569
Kadavu	22	7,805	185	7,620
Totals	648	854,956	16,524	838,432

No. 31.

Report on the Health of the White Population of the Fiji Islands, and the manner in which it is affected by the Climate and Modes of Living: together with some Remarks on the different Diseases; the Rearing of Children, White and Half-caste; and the general hygienic state of the Islands. Compiled from information collected during the visit of Her Majesty's ship "Pearl" to Fiji in 1873 *and* 1874, *by A. B. Messer, M.D., Staff Surgeon, 2nd Class, Her Majesty's ship "Pearl."*

Topography.

THE Fiji Islands, lying between 15° 40′ and 20° south latitude, are entirely within the tropics, and are characterized by the richness and profusion of the vegetation peculiar to these regions.

They number about 255, of which about 80 are inhabited, varying in size from Viti-Levu, the largest, which is about 220 miles in circumference, down, through all the intermediate sizes, to the insignificant coral islet with its clump of cocoa-nut trees.

The more important islands of the group are mostly mountainous, rising more or less abruptly from the shore to a heighth in many parts of 2,000 or 3,000 feet and, in a few, even to over 4,000 feet.

These hills and mountains are generally of a grand and picturesque outline, being composed for the most part of old volcanic lavas, conglomerates, basalt, and trap, clothed from base to summit with a dense vegetation, which, on the easterly or windward sides, is generally developed into thick forests containing numerous varieties of large and valuable trees, while, on the opposite sides, the vegetation is mostly confined to rich grasses, and a few thinly scattered trees of the casuarina and pandanus classes.

Skirting the foot of the mountains, and fringing the numerous bays which indent the coast, and stretching in many places far into the interior between the ranges, are plains of the richest alluvial soil, extending in some parts of the larger islands over many square miles, watered, and, not unfrequently, inundated by the rivers and numerous streams which carry off the superfluous rainfall of the mountains, and kept perennially green with a rank and profuse vegetation.

The rivers are unusually large in proportion to the size of islands, and, being subject to frequent and sudden heavy floods and corresponding subsidences, carry down to the sea immense quantities of mud, sand, and gravel, which are deposited at their mouths in deltas, low swampy banks, or extensive mud flats, more or less covered by the tide, or overgrown with mangrove and other ill-omened plants.

Many of the beautiful bays on the coast are free from the mud and mangroves, and, instead, are fringed with groves of cocoa-nut, breadfruit, and banana trees, the beach bordered by pure white coral sand, and the sea deep and transparent, receiving but little pollution from the clear streams which fall in numerous cascades from the neighbouring hills, while a group of native houses half hidden among the trees, together form frequent pictures of the most charming quiet and loveliness.

White Population.

In order correctly to estimate the effects of the climate upon the white residents it is necessary to understand the different elements composing the latter as well as their peculiar modes of life.

The present white population of the Fiji Islands is estimated at 2,000, of whom 1,700 are British subjects, 70 American, 100 German, and the remainder of other nationalities. The British subjects are mostly either of Australian birth, or have been long resident there, or in New Zealand, or other foreign countries, comparatively few having come direct from England to this country.

They have, consequently, been subjected to the influence of many different climates, and have undergone all manner of hardships, and, in not a few cases, have led lives wild and reckless, both mentally and physically, bringing to Fiji but the wreck of their original selves to test the salubrity of its climate.

Standing out in relief from these there are fortunately numbers of fine, strong, well-grown men, who, with the characteristic pluck of their race, have left their homes with their patrimony more in their muscles than in their pockets, and boldly faced the rough life of the pioneer planter, clearing the forest, planting and reaping with his own hands, and braving the treachery of the most vindictive cannibals with coolness and courage which has too often been greater than their discretion.

The manner of life led by the whites in Fiji at once presents itself in two aspects:

1. The planter's life on his plantation;

2. The life led by the inhabitants of Levuka and by many of the planters and others who occasionally visit that town.

On his plantation the settler leads an isolated and lonely life; in many cases separated by miles of river or trackless mountains from any other white man, or cut off by the sea from the next islands, he spends his days surrounded by his black labourers, who are generally but little above the brutes in intelligence, and are only interesting so far as getting them to work for him.

The houses of the planters are in many cases built for them by the Fijians of reeds, cocoa-nut leaves, &c.; they are low in the roof, and have small windows and doors, and rarely any flooring beyond the hardened soil. Nevertheless, they are very cool and comfortable, and some of the better ones are really more adapted to the climate than the more pretentious wood and iron erections which are now becoming common.

Owing to the wetness of the climate it is almost impossible to keep a house moderately free from damp without a wooden floor raised some distance from the ground, which not only improves the general comfort and appearance, but also adds most materially to the healthiness of the house, and its freedom from mosquitoes. Nearly all the planters now of any importance have good wooden houses generally roofed with corrugated iron, surrounded by a wide verandah, under which a great part of his domestic life is passed.

When he is a married man there are generally to be found many comforts and not a few luxuries. Cows, and a good dairy, goats, fowls of all sorts, a good garden with abundance of fruit and vegetables, while here and there, where the nature of the country will allow it, fair saddle-horses are kept.

During the greater part of the year the planter has plenty of occupation out of doors, either in managing the crops already in the ground, or preparing fresh land in extending his plantation.

His life, therefore, while on the plantation, although too often very lonely, is yet most healthful, and as long as he abstains from the abuse of stimulants and other vices, and avoids unnecessary exposure to wet and cold chills, he remains in perfect health as far as the climate is concerned.

As I shall presently show there is only one disease, viz., dysentery, which he has to fear, and this can generally be guarded against in Fiji by observing a few simple precautions.

Very different is the life which too many of the planters lead when in Levuka, whence they repair occasionally on business or "pleasure."

Tired of his lonely rustication on his distant plantation, where he had no one to talk to, on arriving in Levuka he is apt to give way to temptation, and, following the example of the many worthless characters who haunt the drinking bars of the town, he spends his hard-earned gains in drinking and gambling, till, funds running short, he is obliged to return to the quieter and healthier life of planting.

It is unnecessary to say more here of the life of the people of Levuka, except to mention that there are now in it numbers of most respectable tradesmen, merchants, and members of the different professions, who have good comfortable houses, and live as people do in other towns. If the planter on coming to Levuka chooses to mix with the idle and dissipated class, in preference to the other, he has himself entirely to blame.

It is a melancholy fact that in this town there seems to be a disproportionately large number of that class of men who pass their days and nights in drinking and gambling, and, at the same time, puzzle every one how they manage to pay, as they have no visible means of earning a livelihood. In the midst of this life of idleness and dissipation, it is strange to remark the wonderful absence of the female element, which generally plays such a prominent part in this sort of life in most towns.

Fiji is blessed with a most virtuous native race, who, aided by the good teaching of the missionaries, have managed to keep themselves wonderfully free from the contamination of the vices of civilization.

Prostitution among the Fijian women and white men is almost unknown, and, as a consequence, venereal diseases are very rare even in Levuka.

White women of this class are as yet very rare in Fiji.

Climate.

The climate of the Fiji Islands is strictly tropical, the year being divided into the hot moist season, extending from November to April, and the cool dry season from May to October.

In the accompanying meteorological tables, it will be seen that, in No. 1, the observations for which were taken in Levuka in 1865, the thermometer ranged from 97·6 to 65, or 30·6 degrees; and the mean temperature for the year at 9 A.M. was 80 degrees; while in Table 2, the observations for which were taken at Bua in Vanua Levu in 1873, the range was 34·2 degrees, viz., from 94·5 to 60·3 degrees; and the mean temperature for the year at 8 A.M. 78·9 degrees.

Table No. 3 gives the results of observations taken on board this ship during her stay among the islands. They were registered very frequently day and night, with great care, and are quite reliable as far as they go; but, as they only extend over four months, Table No. 4 has been constructed to show how far they agree with the corresponding months in the first and second Tables.

In this Table it will be seen, that although the highest and lowest readings vary considerable, yet the means agree very closely in the three sets of observations.

The comparatively low maximum of the "Pearl's" observations is doubtless owing to the less amount of radiation of heat which takes place in a ship than on shore.

The amount of moisture in the air, together with the rainfall for these four months, also agree sufficiently close in the different Tables, to give a correct idea on this point.

The prevailing winds, as stated in the South Pacific Directory, are "from April to November east-north-east to south-east, blowing a fresh trade wind. From November to April northerly winds are often experienced, and in the months of February and March heavy gales are frequent."

The prevalence of strong trade winds throughout the greater part of the year, together with the detached insular arrangement of the land, have a powerful influence in moderating the temperature of the air as measured by the thermometer, as well as producing a sensation of coolness and freshness in the air; and is, no doubt, one of the chief reasons for the healthiness of the climate.

At the same time, these circumstances must also help materially in checking the spread of disease, and preventing the accumulation of poisonous miasmata, when it arises under the influence of great heat and moisture acting on the enormous quantity of decaying vegetable matter, which is always present on these islands.

There exists a very considerable difference in the climate, but more especially in the amount of moisture on the windward and lee sides of the different islands.

Meteorological observations are, however, not yet to be had of sufficient extent to determine the difference accurately, nor are the effects on the white residents yet ascertained.

The effect, however, is most marked on the vegetation, and doubtless an analogous difference will, by and by, be found to exist among the inhabitants of the opposite sides, especially of the larger islands.

Table No. 1.—Copy of Meteorological Table from Calvert's "Fiji and Fijians," taken daily at Levuka in 1865, at 9 A.M.

1865.	Thermometers.					Winds.	Rainfall.		
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.	Maximum Wet and Dry.	Minimum Wet and Dry.	General, Direct.	Greatest Fall.	Total Fall.	No. Days Rain fell.
January	93·6	79·0	85·0	9·0	3·04	S.E., S.W.	2·00	6·11	15
February ..	97·6	73·5	83·3	9·2	1·07	S.E, N.W.	3·90	13·45	18
March	95·0	70·0	82·5	8·5	1·08	E.N.	3·80	17·14	21
April	87·7	72·0	81·5	9·2	1·10	S.E., E.	5·20	19·57	23
May	89·3	70·5	80·7	9·0	2·00	S.E., N.	1·12	2·22	7
June	87·0	67·0	79·0	8·0	1·09	S.E., N.E.	1·25	3·69	9
July	85·0	68·0	77·9	7·6	1·07	S.E., N.E.	2·00	2·68	6
August.. ..	84·0	68·5	..	..	1·08	S.E., E.	0·55	1·15	3
September ..	84·0	65·0	78·7	8·3	2·05	S.E., N.E.	1·02	2·78	7
October ..	87·0	67·5	78·7	9·1	2·06	S.E.	9·92	4·38	8
November ..	84·3	68·0	79·5	10·0	2·05	S.E., N.E.	0·67	1·25	6
December ..	86·5	70·0	81·6	7·3	2·05	N.E., S.	1·75	9·23	13
								83·62	136

Table No. 2.—Abstract of Meteorological Observations taken at Bua, in Vanua Levu, 60 feet above sea, 1 mile from sea, in 1873, at 8 A.M.

1873.	Thermometers.				Rainfall.			
	Mean.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean Daily Range.	Total Fall.	Greatest Daily Fall.	No. Days Rain fell.	Hours of Rain.
January	79·5	91·5	70·3	12·8	20·15	2·82	23	89
February	79·9	91·8	71·7	13·9	17·31	2·30	21	80
March	79·8	94·2	69·3	14·6	16·52	2·52	22	88
April	80·0	92·2	69·3	15·4	11·38	1·83	20	30
May	79·0	91·8	68·6	16·3	4·53	1·10	13	26
June	76·2	90·0	60·3	16·3	2·51	0·75	6	10
July	77·6	90·0	62 8	17·7	4·71	1·35	14	23
August	75·9	89·5	60·8	15·9	8·10	2·03	11	41
September	78·0	92·8	66·6	15·7	1·47	0·36	12	7
October	79·8	94·5	68·0	15·5	7·07	2·10	16	33
November	80·2	93·4	64·0	19·1	2·88	1·32	6	8
December	81·4	93·8	71·2	16·1	7·51	1 40	17	35
Year { 1873	78·9	94·5	60·3	15·8	104·10	2·82	181	470
Year { 1872	78·9	97·5	59·3	15·7	127·03	5·05	180	502

Table No. 3.—Constructed by Surgeon O. T. Corrie, of Her Majesty's ship "Pearl," from Observations taken on board that ship by Navigating-Lieutenant Henry Hoskins, R.N., during the visit of the "Pearl" to different parts of the Group in 1873-74.

Months.	Thermometers.						Rainfall.		
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.	Maximum of wet and dry.	Minimum of wet and dry.	Mean of wet and dry.	Maximum daily fall.	Total.	Number of days rain fell.
1873.									
November	88·5	66·0	79·1	9·8	1·0	5·1	1·18	2·847	6
December	85·7	75·0	81·4	8·0	1·0	4·3	1·55	6·66	16
1874.									
January	87·0	75·5	81·0	8·0	0·7	3·6	1·35	6·86	19
February	86·0	75·5	81·8	9·8	1·0	4·4	5·01	12·00	16
March	87·0	77·0	82·2	9·0	1·5	4·8	1·00	3·00	13

Table No. 4.—Compiled from the preceding Tables for the purposes of comparison.

Months.	Places.	Thermometers.					Rainfall.	
		Maximum.	Minimum.	Medium.	Wet and dry maximum.	Wet and dry minimum.	Greatest daily fall.	Total.
November ..	Levuka	84·0	68·0	79·0	10·0	2·5	0·67	1·25
	Bua	93·0	64·0	80·0	..	..	1·32	2·88
	"Pearl"	88·0	66·0	79·0	9·8	1·0	1·18	2·84
December ..	Levuka	86·0	70·0	81·0	7·3	2·5	1·75	9·23
	Bua	93·0	71·0	81·0	..	..	1·40	7·51
	"Pearl"	86·0	75·0	81·0	8·0	1·0	1·55	6·66
January	Levuka	93·0	79·0	85·0	9·0	3·4	2·00	6·11
	Bua	91·0	70·0	79·0	..	..	2·82	20·15
	"Pearl"	87·0	75·0	81·0	8 0	0·7	1·33	6·86
February	Levuka	97·0	73·0	83·0	9·2	1·7	3·90	13·45
	Bua	91·0	71·0	79·0	..	..	2·30	17·31
	"Pearl"	86·0	75·0	81·0	9·8	1·0	5·01	12·00

Diseases.

The preceding short sketch of the nature of the country, climate, and white population will, it is hoped, render more clear the following remarks on the diseases which prevail in, or are absent from, these islands, as well as the general effects of the climate on the settlers.

Bearing in mind that Fiji has a strictly tropical climate, accompanied by the peculiar vegetation and many of the circumstances which, in other similar countries, are generally associated with a large amount of sickness, a high mortality, and the necessity of periodically repairing to some colder climate, for the preservation of life and health, we should naturally expect to find a corresponding state existing here, and look for the virulent fevers and other diseases peculiar to the tropics. But such is not the case; for in Fiji, as far as experience has yet gone, there exists a most extraordinary freedom from, not only tropical diseases, but also from most of those diseases which, in England and other countries, yearly cause a large amount of sickness and death.

That large class of diseases which includes small-pox, measles, scarlet fever, typhus, typhoid, &c., are nearly unknown in the group, being represented solely by a few cases of simple continued fever, and an occasional prevalence of influenza; while the more fearful scourges of yellow fever and cholera have not yet made their way to the islands. How long this immunity from the so-called zymotic diseases may continue, will depend greatly on the precautions taken by the Local Authorities in preventing their entrance through the different channels open, and keeping the islands in such a state of sanitation, as will prevent their spread when introduced.

The periodic diseases, such as ague and remittent fever, which owe their origin to the presence of malaria, are, strange to say, very rare, if not altogether absent, although from the nature of the country and climate, they are the very forms of disease which one would expect to find prevailing.

The greater number of the plantations are, as yet, situated on the alluvial plains bordering the

rivers, and are frequently in close proximity to extensive mangrove and other swamps. The planters take no precautions to prevent malarial poisoning, either in choice of sites for their houses or in using prophylactic medicines, yet we have failed, after full inquiry, in hearing of any well authenticated case of malarial fever being contracted, at least in the leeward part of the group, which forms the largest and most important division of the islands.

That the absence of ague and remittent fever is owing to the non-existence of malaria, is the natural conclusion, yet it is well known that in some countries these diseases are apt to appear in certain years, and remain absent for long periods; it remains to be seen whether such may not happen here; but under cultivation, and clearing of forests, and draining of marshes, which is sure to take place as the land becomes occupied by settlers, the risks of their appearance should rather diminish.

The native race also appears to be free from these diseases, although they generally select the most unhealthy sites for their villages, being almost always as close to swampy land as possible, for the purpose of conveniently growing their taro, yams, &c.

We must, however, be careful in concluding that malaria does not exist, for although the periodic fevers may be absent, yet other diseases take their place, such as dysentery and elephantiasis, which, by most authorities on this subject, are considered due to its presence.

It seems a strange but well-authenticated fact that in many of the groups composing Polynesia, when ague is endemic dysentery is absent, and *vice versa*. Also that the latter disease is said to prevail most in the mountainous volcanic islands, and ague in the low coral islands.

The diseases included in the same class as rheumatism, syphilis, scrofula, &c., are all very rare. Rheumatism, the bane of cold wet climates, is here rarely heard of, and when it does occur, it is in the mild and subacute form.

The habits of the people, exposing them freely to rain, night-dews, and severe physical work, without the usual results of crippled joints and stiff muscles, as seen in the out-door working classes of England, is only another proof of the wonderful salubrity of Fiji.

Venereal diseases, as previously explained, are rarely contracted in these islands, but as the communication with neighbouring lands increases, together with a larger white population, this happy immunity will doubtless cease.

Scrofulous diseases cannot be said to be common among the white people, although they prevail to a great extent among the natives, but not more so, or perhaps not so much, as in some of the other groups where good food, houses, and clothing are the exception, and not the rule as they are among the Fijians.

Europeans in sufficient numbers have not been resident here long enough to test efficiently the effects of the climate on this class of diseases.

Diseases of the nervous system, such as sunstroke, epilepsy, insanity, and delirium tremens, are very important, as their origin is too frequently the result of indiscretion and evil habits of the sufferers.

The first, viz., sunstroke, would be expected to be common, but although most of the Europeans are in the constant habit of working the whole day in the open air exposed to a tropical sun, wearing only an ordinary straw hat and puggery, or occasionally a pith helmet, yet in no part of the group have I heard of any death from this affection occurring among the planters or others. Head-ache, and the slighter forms of insolation, of course, sometimes happen, but this freedom from the severer attacks is attributable to the purity of the air, combined with the breeze which almost constantly blows night and day throughout the most of the year over these islands, keeping the air in motion, and producing evaporation from the surface of the body, and consequent decrease of its temperature.

Another very important item in preventing sunstroke among the planters is their freedom of dress, as it is well known that this disease has always been most prevalent, and fatal among troops dressed and accoutred in a manner unfit for tropical service.

Of the occurrence of epilepsy and insanity no reliable information has been obtained, but of the prevalence of delirium tremens there is no lack of evidence.

Considering the number of worthless adventurers, who, driven from other countries by their evil habits and other faults, have sought a refuge among these islands in numbers out of all proportion to the rest of the settlers, and who, by their example and influence, too often lead their weaker minded neighbours in their footsteps, it is not to be wondered that this disease is more common than it should be.

At the present time (1873-74), when so much real misfortune has fallen upon the planters, through failure of crops, depreciation in value of produce, and the irritation produced by errors in Government, every excuse may reasonably be made for many who have sought relief from their cares in drink, but who, it is hoped, will, under happier circumstances, and a more settled and refined state of society, give up habits equally destructive to health and to success in every walk of life, and remove from Fiji the reproach which, now it is feared, has become attached to it.

It must clearly be stated that such a wonderfully healthy climate can, in no way, be blamed for inducing such habits in Europeans.

In close connection with this subject is the habit of kava drinking, copied from the natives. It must be confessed that the effects of this substance upon the human body are very peculiar, and require thorough investigation. That it has powerful properties there can be no doubt, and that some of them are useful and beneficial must also be admitted, but that it is also hurtful, when used to the extent and in the indiscriminate manner which many white people do, is evident from the sluggish, sottish appearance of the confirmed kava drinker.

The natives endow it with every virtue, curative, preventive, and comforting under misfortune. The older white residents mostly equal and often excel the natives in their praises of it.

It is better they say than sarsaparilla as a blood purifier; it prevents and cures diarrhœa and dysentery; it soothes like opium, and wards off fever and every other disease, &c.

It is true that it soothes somewhat like opium, and in this probably lies the secret of all its other

attributes; for one certain action it has, viz., producing a partial paralysis of the muscular system, together with a lethargic state of the sensibility, without the excitement, coma, and following discomfort of drunkenuess, has recommended it to many as a substitute when alcohol cannot be got.

It is also a warm aromatic stomachic, and in this way is probably beneficial to the natives, and those who live mostly on the succulent fruits and vegetables of the tropics.

Whatever its virtues be, it certainly requires the fullest confidence in them, together with a most unusual indifference to our ordinary notions of cleanliness to induce English people to drink it, after having once seen it prepared by the natives.

Its taste has been compared to that of Gregory's Mixture combined with soap suds, and its appearance to that of dirty dish water; so that like many a strange taste in more civilized parts of the world, it is truly an acquired one, and often followed through force of circumstances, or for the sake of the tyrant fashion who thrives even in Fiji.

The next class of diseases are those of respiratory organs, such as sore throat, bronchitis, and inflammation of the lungs.

As might be expected, from what has been already said about the climate, these diseases are of vary rare occurrence, and seldom of much importance when they do happen.

Influenza, although a disease chiefly affecting the respiratory organs, is strictly classed with the fevers under which it was incidentally mentioned as occasionally prevailing in Fiji. It has, on several occasions, broken out in an epidemic form, and produced considerable mortality amongst the natives.

It would appear to have been introduced by different ships, on different occasions, and sometimes from the neighbouring islands by canoes.

Although the disease, during these epidemics, has not confined itself to the natives, but affected the white residents as well, it has never, as far as we ean learn, been attended by any mortality, or even much severity among the latter

Some of the other diseases of this class, such as asthma and bronchitis, are very common among the natives; and at certain seasons of year they produce a large amount of sickness, and are among the most prolific causes of death, especially in the old and very young.

We now come to diseases of the stomach and bowels; and amongst them we find almost the only affections which prevail in Fiji to such an extent as to render a residence there at all dangerous to the white population.

Setting aside the ordinary forms of dyspepsia, which almost invariably result from indiscretion in eating and drinking, and which occurs alike in all climates where the habits of the individuals are vicious, the more serious forms of bowel disease, viz., diarrhœa and dysentery are very common.

The diarrhœa of Fiji is in no way peculiar, but occurs as in other parts of the world, most frequently towards the end of the hot season; and is generally attributed to sudden changes in temperature, accompanied by an irritable state of the intestines, induced by the previous prevalence of hot weather.

Simple diarrhœa is generally of short duration, and easily checked; but in Fiji it is most necessary not to neglect it, as is liable to finish in the graver disease of dysentery.

Dysentery, without doubt, is the only disease which Europeans have to fear, and guard against, in the whole of Fiji.

This is saying more for the climate and healthiness of these islands than can be said of almost any other climate or country in the world, and certainly of those in corresponding latitudes.

It must not be supposed either, that it exists to an extent at all approaching a scourge, as the disease does in China, and some other countries; for there seems to be every reason to believe that many of the cases of dysentery one hears of among the islands, are only more or less severe examples of diarrhœa, as few deaths result, and few cases of chronic dysentery are met with among the planters.

There is no doubt, however, that cases of acute, and rapidly fatal dysentery are not uncommon in the different islands; but the large proportion of cases are of a mild, and what is known as the sporadic form of the disease. Epidemic dysentery, which is the form generally met in other tropical or malarious climates, does not seem to exist as yet in Fiji; unless, perhaps, among the imported black labourers, who are mostly natives of the New Hebrides, and other groups of islands near the line, where ague and dysentery are said to be be prevalent and fatal.

This sporadic form of dysentery, which mostly attacks Europeans in Fiji, is in no way peculiar to the climate, and cannot be attributed solely to any local poison, but appears to be simply owing to high temperature, associated with exposure to chills, and living in badly-constructed houses, indiscretion in living, and using bad food and water. It is common, from similar causes, in hot weather, in nearly all climates. In Fiji it does not seem to be more rife on the banks of the rivers, where the low damp land is densely covered with rank vegetation, and liable to floods, than it is on the dryer and more hilly parts.

In the town of Levuka, however, it would appear to be pretty common, and there not unfrequently attacks residents who are both careful in living and well housed; and especially females when in weak health, and other debilitated subjects, such as the ill-fed reckless victims of intoxication.

Bad water in Levuka is without doubt one, if not the most active agent in producing dysentery, for the disease appears to be most common during periods of dry weather, when the water supply becomes scarce, and strongly impregnated with decomposing vegetable and animal impurities. The utter neglect of all sanitary rules in the town must also bear a large share in producing this horrible, yet avoidable, disease.

Another opportunity shall be taken of pointing out how the inhabitants of Levuka are affected by its natural disadvantages and its preventible abominations.

Another important class of diseases belonging to this category are the diseases of the liver.

They prevail to a large extent in hot climates, especially where extravagant living is combined with indolence and dissipation.

In Fiji they are fortunately nearly absent, at least, the graver forms of them are little heard of. This is doubtless owing to the purity of the air from malaria, the free open-air life led by the planters, and the absence of luxurious indolent habits.

The dissipation of Fiji being fortunately of an intermittent character in most instances, does not contribute so much as might be expected to the production of these diseases.

Diseases of the skin require some attention, as there prevails in certain quarters a belief that the new arrival in Fiji is liable to become the victim of some of those unsightly and repulsive disorders which are so often described as disfiguring the natives of hot climates; and a special form and name of disease has unfortunately been saddled on the islands, viz., "Fiji sores."

That young English people, on arriving in hot climates for the first time, are liable to suffer much from boils, prickly heat, mosquito bites, &c., is well known to every one who has been much in the tropics, as well as the fact that any abrasion of the skin is frequently difficult to heal in them during the hot part of the year.

Certainly Fiji is no exception to this rule, but we have entirely failed to identify the so-called "Fiji sore" as any special form of skin disease.

These sores are said to be most frequently situated on the feet, ankles, shins, and between the fingers and toes. Most cases are easily traced to neglected boils, cuts, bruises, and mosquito bites, which become inflamed by rubbing or scratching, soon develop into irritable ulcers, which are very troublesome to heal, especially during the hot seasons of the year.

This tendency for slight abrasions of the skin to degenerate into obstinate ulcers is strongest in young people who have not previously been in tropical weather, and in others in whom a venereal or scrofulous taint already exists.

It may, therefore, be pretty safely concluded that the "Fiji sore" is no way peculiar to the country, or attributable to the effects of its climate; and, consequently, not in the least to be dreaded by the intending immigrant.

Care, however, must be taken not to confound these sores with a most repulsive skin disease affecting the natives, called "cokà" (pronounced "thokà") and sometimes, but wrongly, called by the whites "Fiji small-pox." It is not an eruptive fever, but a non-febrile skin disease, consisting of numerous ulcerated tubercles, raised considerably above the level of the skin, and situated most commonly about the angles of the mouth, but also affecting all parts of the external surface of the body. The tubercles vary in size and shape from a pea to a kidney bean, and may number from two or three to as many as fifty on the same sufferer.

It is almost invariably found in young children under three years of age; and the natives, believing that every child should go through this disease, and that the earlier they take it the less severe it will be, and the stronger the child will be when grown up, not only take no steps to prevent its being communicated from one child to another, but are said actually to inoculate it.

It would appear that one attack protects against a return; hence one reason for it being misnamed "small-pox."

It is generally accompanied by a good deal of emaciation, but not by much pain or itching, and is said to be rarely fatal.

It is a most unsightly malady, and resembles some forms of constitutional syphilis, but it is clearly distinct from it, and is simply a filthy skin disease, deliberately kept up and propagated by the ignorance and prejudice of the natives.

A few simple rules, if strictly enforced, would soon stamp it out of the country.

It has been known to attack Europeans, but those only who have lived among natives, and exposed themselves to the contagion.

The Fijians do little in the way of treatment, but the Samoans, in whose islands it also exists, attempt to mitigate it after it is contracted.

Another form of disease affecting the skin is elephantiasis. It is somewhat common among the natives of certain places in the group, and is said to be endemic in most low lying swampy localities, attacking the legs more frequently than the scrotum. Only two instances occurring in Europeans in Fiji have come to our knowledge; the one having lived five, the other fifteen years in these islands, leading the usual rough and careless life of the early settlers. In neither case was the disease very well marked, and some doubt exists if they were *bonâ fide* cases of this affection. They were not attended with fever or ague, or other sign of malarial poisoning. In both the leg was attacked, and both were cured by simply leaving the locality in which it had been contracted.

This absence of elephantiasis from among the white settlers again shows how disease, common among the natives, may be avoided by ordinary care and attention to sanitary rules.

Nosological Table of Cases treated in Levuka Hospital, between October 1872 and March 1874.

[This Table and its accompanying remarks are furnished by Surgeon A. T. Corrie, R.N., Her Majesty's ship "Pearl."]

	Whites.						Blacks.						Totals.
	No. of Cases.	Ages.			Result.		No. of Cases.	Ages.			Result.		
		15 to 25.	25 to 35.	35 to 45.	Died.	Cured.		15 to 25.	25 to 35.	35 to 45.	Died.	Cured.	
Fever	1	..	..	.	..	1	4	4	..	..	4	..	5
Rheumatism ..	1	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	2
Syphilis ..	2	..	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Phthisis ..	3	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	..	..	1	..	4
Insanity ..	2	..	1	1	Relieved		..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Ophthalmia ..	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Pericarditis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	1
Pneumonia ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	2	2
Dysentery ..	3	..	1	2	1	2	6	4	..	..	1	5	9
Hepatitis ..	2	1	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Abscess ..	2	..	2	..	..	2	2	1	1	..	1	1	4
Ulcer	1	1	..	..	..	1	2	1	..	1	..	2	3
Elephantiasis ..	..	..	..	.	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	1
Delirium tremens	2	..	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Fracture ..	2	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Gun-shot wounds .	5	..	4	1	1	4	9	3	1	..	2	7	14
Contusion ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	1
Total ..	27	5	11	10	3	22	30	17	2	2	9	21	57

Remarks on preceding Table.

The Table, though somewhat incomplete, and embracing but a short period, is at the same time sufficient to show the marked freedom of both whites and blacks in Levuka and the surrounding islands from those diseases so common in tropical climates, viz., intestinal, febrile, and hepatic.

During the last eighteen months only nine cases of dysentery have been admitted to the Levuka Hospital, three of which occurred in whites, causing one death.

The cases of fever named in the Table were, as far as could be ascertained, of a simple character, though very fatal to the blacks, all who were admitted having died, and occurring in those under 25 years of age.

The Table shows three cases of phthisis in white men; but we must not, therefore, conclude that the climate of Fiji is at all favourable to the development of this or such like pulmonary affections, for we have been assured by one or two phthisical and asthmatical people that their sufferings have been much alleviated, and their health generally improved since their sojourn in Fiji.

The large amount of gun-shot wounds, one-fourth of the total cases admitted, occurred during the political disturbances which led to the use of firearms between the white and black people.

(Signed) A. T. Corrie, *Surgeon, R.N.*

Effects of the Climate on the White Population.

From the preceding remarks it will be gathered that Fiji is wonderfully exempt from most of the diseases of both tropical and extra-tropical countries, and consequently its climate may be considered more than usually healthy for its latitude.

As before mentioned, the climate, although strictly tropical, is greatly tempered by the prevailing winds and other causes, and if it do not exert any very baneful influence on the European constitution, there yet exists a well marked difference in the appearance of the residents, distinguishing the Fiji settler from the occasional visitor or the fresh arrival from England.

This difference consists in a spareness of frame, a somewhat sallow complexion, and a hard keeness of expression, approaching sensibly the American type of the Anglo-Saxon race. This appearance is doubtless increased by the dress and manners of the planters and others. At the same time there is no doubt that while fat white men are very rare in Fiji, fat natives are the rule. This is quite in keeping with the effects of most hot climates on the English race, especially where the individuals lead out-of-door active lives. This effect of the climate becomes more evident in the female residents of these islands, who, owing to their duties entailing more confinement indoors, and the roughness of the country preventing them from taking much exercise, are apt to become pale, thin, and anæmic. In the meantime the necessities of life in a rough, new country, compel them to work hard, and struggle against the enervating power of the high temperature; and it is most praiseworthy how nobly many of them have borne their share in the struggle of civilization against a savage country and a cannibal treacherous race.

The climate has been blamed for being enervating and depressing, and doubtless many days occur, especially towards the end of the summer, when the trade winds failing, hot, oppressive, muggy

weather sets in, affecting many people with an irresistible languidness, and disinclination to any exertion, mental or physical.

This depressing effect of the climate becomes very evident after a severe illness, or confinement on the part of a female, when great difficulty is often experienced in regaining health and strength.

But that there is anything peculiarly lowering in this more than in any other equally hot climate is very doubtful, and the fact that Englishmen fresh from home are able to work all day exposed to the sun without suffering clearly shows that where there is an object to be gained, men with determination and energy, combined with healthy bodies and minds, can successfully contend against this effect of the climate of the Fiji Islands.

Convalescents are frequently obliged to leave Fiji for a colder climate, as is the case in all hot countries. As yet no very suitable site has been found for a sanatorium whither such cases might be sent, but future research among the highland of Viti Levu will doubtless discover, not only many cool, healthy situations, but also medicinal and thermal springs, and thus do away, to a great extent, with the present necessity of these patients resorting to New Zealand for the restoration of their health.

Whether the climate of Fiji will ever be considered suitable for consumptive patients is much to be doubted, and the isolated positions of the islands in the midst of the Pacific, far from the more populous parts of the world, forbids the hope of them ever being of much use in this respect.

Rearing of White Children.

The possibility of rearing children in health to the age of maturity in a new country is a point of such vital importance to the future success of it as a Colony, that not only careful research, but the crucial test of experience extending over many years is necessary to determine it.

As yet but a small per-centage of the settlers in Fiji are married, but wherever we found them to be so among the plantations we visited, numerous and healthy children seemed to be the rule. As might be expected, statistics on this point do not as yet exist.

All the mothers whom we had an opportunity of questioning bore testimony to the lightness of their children's complaints, and the rarity of any sickness among them.

Although meagreness of frame was remarked among the parents, yet the offspring were stout, ruddy, and strong.

Whether that peculiar precocity of appearance and manners, as well as weedyness of growth, which characterizes so many of the Australian-born children, will make its appearance among the rising white generation of Fiji remains to be seen, for as yet there are few of them sufficiently old to judge from, but it is to be feared there is every probability of its occurring here as in most climates of a similar nature.

The free natural life they lead on the plantations, together with the early age at which the children of the settlers have to perform work, depending much on their own intelligence, tends to produce a manly independence of character, a hardy frame, and a readiness of resource which, combined with the absence of towns and their usual debasing connections, should all help materially in rendering the rising white race in Fiji good settlers and energetic pioneers in the future history of these islands, and enable them to hold their own in the struggle for existence.

As might be expected, the children in the town of Levuka, although numerous enough, are, when compared with those in the country, pale, small, and rather sickly-looking, owing chiefly to the natural features and sanitary defects of the town, the closeness of the buildings, and the greater scarcity of cheap food suitable for children. On the plantations cow's or goat's milk, fowls, eggs, and numerous fruits and vegetables are the rule, in Levuka the exception.

The Fijian Half-Caste Race.

It is estimated that there are now in the Fiji Islands about 120 adult men, 200 women, and 250 children of the European or American half-caste race.

Although congregated in colonies, such as at Levuka, Vanua Levu, &c. on the Rewa river, they are to be found more or less in all the chief islands of the group.

More than one half of the men are employed as sailors, a considerable number as boat-builders and carpenters, and a few as planters and cattle rearers.

In their tastes and manner of living they take more after the native race than the white, being looked up to by the former and despised by the latter. They associate and intermarry mostly among themselves or with the Fijians, except some of the women, who not unfrequently become the mistresses, and occasionally the wives of white settlers.

Although many of the half-castes are married, yet the number of their offspring is rarely above three or four in a family, who, as far as we have been able to observe, are frequently much diseased and poorly developed.

Physically, the men are a fine, well-grown race, but the females, although often good-looking, are inferior in this respect. The men are of a roving and unsettled disposition, rarely settling to any fixed occupation: they mostly become sailors, and man the numerous small craft which navigate the Fiji seas.

Few of them embrace any particular form of religion, although they are, in most cases, nominally Christians, and, as a class, bear but an indifferent character for sobriety or trustworthiness, being particularly fond of card-playing and gambling.

They are also said to be very improvident, the women especially being careless and extravagant.

Exceptions, however, to this not over-perfect character are not wanting, for there are a few families who have turned their attention steadily to boat-building and who are industrious, useful members of the community, producing well-built boats at very moderate prices, and laying by money, buying land, and educating their children.

A difference of opinion seems to exist as to the fecundity of Fijian women with white men, which may be accounted for by the fact that, in many cases the women have lived with the settlers in the acknowledged position of a mistress, without any prospect of permanency, to whom, under such circumstances, children would be considered an encumberance, and, as the natives are great adepts at procuring abortion, their sterility in such cases is easily accounted for.

Whether the number of half-castes will increase seems very doubtful, as with advancing civilization the number of white women will also increase, and the relations between the races in this respect will necessarily alter. It is therefore unlikely that, as a separate race, they will ever become of much importance in the islands.

Levuka.

In the preceding Report frequent allusion has been made to the town of Levuka, and as it is the only foreign town in the group, as well as being in all probability the future capital, at least for some years to come, it is necessary to make some special remarks upon it, in so far as it affects the health of its inhabitants.

It is situated on the north-east side of the island of Ovalu, in latitude 17° 40′, longitude 178° 49′, being nearly in the centre of the group. It dates its origin from 1835, but its growth was so slow that in 1861 its white population numbered only 160 adults.

It now contains about 550 inhabitants, of whom 400 are British, 50 American, and 14 German subjects; the remainder of various nationalities.

The town is built on a narrow strip of level land about three quarters of a mile long, and about 50 yards wide, except at one point where it extends back among the hills between 200 and 300 yards.

It is shut in at the back, and ends by the steep lower spurs of the mountains, which rise abruptly over the town to a height of over 2,000 feet.

It consists of one long street of houses and shops, skirting the beach so closely that at high tide only a narrow footpath about ten feet wide remains, and which on the occurrence of a moderate gale from the east is often washed away, being composed only of loose stones, sand, and mud, forming in all weather a most wretched and uncomfortable road.

The houses, stores, &c., are built of wood or corrugated iron, the roofs, being mostly of the latter material, are rarely weather-tight, and liable to be easily damaged by the wind.

Upon the remaining level ground at the back, stores, &c., have been erected in a most irregular manner, while on the lower terraces and spurs of the hill villa ressdences are fast springing up.

Although the Town Council have framed sanitary laws, and appointed an inspector of nuisances and a staff of scavengers, yet little fruits of their labours are as yet evident. Horses, cattle, pigs, and goats are allowed to roam at large among the houses. The beach and every corner of waste land is strewn with offal, dead animals, and rotting vegetebles, which emit a stench only equalled by some filthy Chinese or Turkish village, and which it has never been our lot to meet in any other town inhabited by English men.

Up to the present time, the inhabitants have been accustomed to use cesspits adjoining their houses, but this is now most properly prohibited, and an attempt is being made to introduce the dry-earth system of latrines.

This is a wise measure, and, if properly carried out, will prove of the utmost value in preserving the health of the town, until other means may be adopted.

The mountains which form the background of the town are composed of volcanic rocks and lavas, more or less thickly covered by a rich ferruginous soil, made up of disintegrated lava, clay, and vegetable mould. On this flourishes a dense forest of goodly sized trees, of many varieties, intermixed with a rich undergrowth of grass and shrubs, extending to the very summit of the hills, except where cleared near the base for gardens or sites for houses.

The streams which supply Levuka have their sources in the gullies of these mountains, embedded in this profuse vegetation, which having a rapid growth and a corresponding rapid decay, is carried off by slow percolation, or the frequent heavy rains which flush the streams, rendering them muddy and unfit for drinking for several days.

This water being liable at all times to contamination by decaying vegetable matter is not altogether safe for use, especially towards the end of summer, when the decay of the vegetation is greatest, and a liability to bowel diseases generally is most prevalent. At this time of year it should be boiled and filtered before use. The quantity of the supply, which is very ample, will, however, prevent it ever becoming very dangerous, and if stored, instead of being mostly lost in the sea, the risks would be still less.

In connection with the two large streams which rush down from the hills and pass through the opposite ends of the town, iron pipes have been laid down by private enterprise, but which only supply a very small number of the houses in their immediate neighbourhood. The intermediate houses, and those on the hills, obtain their water supply from wells and tanks, or have it carried from the pipes: not a few do not hesitate to draw their water from the streams as they pass through the town, after they have become contaminated by the impurities from their own and their neighbours' houses.

The formation at a very moderate expense of two or three reservoirs in the gullies through which these streams pass, would enable every house and garden in Levuka to have a constant and profuse supply of very fair water at all seasons of the year; while every street and corner might have drinking fountains, and public baths and washing establishments be erected to meet the growing requirements of a population crowded in the hot, and closely-packed town, which Levuka must always be.

A plentiful and cheap supply of good water is the first requisite of every town, but in the tropics it becomes an absolute necessity for the maintenance of the cleanliness of the streets, the salubrity of the air, and the health of its inhabitants. It will be their own fault if the people of Levuka do not obtain these blessings for themselves, for no town could be more easily and cheaply supplied with water and good sanitary arrangements than it.

The town is rapidly increasing, and soon with the prospects of better times, the present available level land will be fully built upon, when steps will be taken to reclaim the foreshore for wharfs and warehouses; roads will be cut on the steep hill sides, and terraces of houses erected high above the present town.

It behoves then, those in authority to see to the early purifying of the present abominations of the town, and by strict attention to sanitary rules, make Levuka what it should be, a perfectly clean and healthy town, in the midst of its many natural gifts of climate and freedom from disease.

If, in the future, Levuka should develop into a large and prosperous town, it will be well to bear in mind the lessons so bitterly learnt in other tropical countries, as to the too extensive destruction and clearing away of trees, a thing easily done, but requiring so many years to replace.

The presence in towns of open garden ground, with good trees, is not only pleasant to look at, but useful in so many ways that it is needless to say more about it, beyond this, that in Levuka extensive excavations will one day be necessary to provide sufficient sites for houses, and as these operations have frequently been followed by severe outbreaks of disease in hot countries, it should be remembered that the presence of trees and vegetation is the natural remedy for such misfortunes.

(Signed) A. B. MESSER, *Staff Surgeon, 2nd Class.*

No. 32.

STATEMENT showing the Number of Vessels Entered and Cleared at the Port of Levuka, Fiji, between July 1872 and December 1873.

Flag.	From or to—	Entered.												Cleared.									
		July 1872 to June 1873.						July 1873 to December 1873.						July 1872 to June 1873.						July 1873 to December 1873.					
		Steamers.		Sailing-ships.		Total.		Steamers.		Sailing-ships.		Total.		Steamers.		Sailing-ships.		Total.		Steamers.		Sailing-ships.		Total.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British ..	Sydney	3	732	18	2,833	21	3,565	3	732	12	1,882	15	2,614	2	484	20	3,276	22	3,760	3	732	9	1,759	12	2,491
Do. ..	Auckland.. ..	1	175	18	1,436	19	1,611	5	825	5	296	10	1,121	1	175	17	1,583	18	1,758	5	825	6	385	11	1,210
Do. ..	Labor Cruize ..	..	..	18	727	18	727	..	..	15	490	15	490	..	..	20	763	20	763	..	..	17	577	17	577
Do. ..	Melbourne ..	..	..	1	157	1	157	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	86	1	86	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do. ..	Tonga, Rotumah, and Samoa	..	..	3	277	3	277	..	..	3	320	4	535	..	..	4	148	4	148	..	..	3	331	3	331
Danish ..	Ditto	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	215	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
British ..	San Francisco ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	208	1	208	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	30	1	30
Do. ..	New Caledonia ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	85	1	85	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do. ..	Clarence River ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	149	1	149
Fijian ..	Labor Cruize ..	..	..	10	332	10	332	..	..	6	160	6	160	..	..	18	526	18	526	..	..	6	194	6	194
Do. ..	Auckland ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	72	1	72	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do. ..	Sydney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	144	2	144	..	..	..	..	..	..
American ..	Labor Cruize ..	..	..	1	85	1	85	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Danish ..	Hamburgh ..	..	..	2	405	2	405	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	405	2	405	..	..	1	215	1	215
Fijian ..	Norfolk Island ..	..	..	2	144	2	144	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	72	1	72	..	..	1	23	1	23
						77	7,303					51	5,151					90	7,819					53	5,220

Entered .. .. 128 vessels .. .. 12,454 tons. | Cleared .. .. 143 vessels .. .. 13,039 tons.

(Signed) D. H. SMART, *Collector of Customs.*

March 16, 1874.

No. 33.

IMPORTS, Port of Levuka, Fiji, from October 1872 to September 1873 (inclusive).

Goods.	1872.			1873.									Total.
	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	
	D. c.	D. c.	D. c.	D. c.	D. c.	D. c.	D. c.	D. c.	D. c.	D. c.	D. c.	D. c.	D. c.
Beer	703 25	888 57	732 12	220 00	1,041 00	968 25	756 25	1,852 50	272 95	1,069 37	663 00	473 00	9,643 31
Confectionery	..	46 25	77 50	42 00	..	34 25	21 00	..	..	..	..	49 26	270 26
Cigars	114 00	190 00	12 50	364 38	300 00	..	206 50	307 50	..	63 00	75 00	567 50	2,200 38
Crockery and glass-ware ..	40 00	82 38	1,076 14	647 56	534 74	29 50	306 00	1,430 03	36 50	813 18	151 41	513 40	5,660 84
Drapery	11,570 33	4,457 07	11,318 11	7,342 78	5,509 34	5,706 90	11,516 67	17,350 60	7,014 29	18,224 17	2,865 94	12,248 63	115,124 83
Drugs	13 00	1,098 78	35 38	803 05	183 16	25 00	86 25	417 14	..	285 60	1,009 33	1,342 35	5,299 04
Flour and bread-stuffs ..	1,687 16	3,207 12	2,329 06	589 28	1,006 30	380 46	263 29	1,976 35	1,521 49	1,637 29	412 75	3,080 22	18,090 77
Furniture..	616 33	162 00	1,519 19	104 25	845 71	493 10	1,072 25	818 75	39 25	967 24	175 00	2,169 53	8,982 60
Fire-arms and ammunition ..	96 12	..	144 30	365 63	145 31	72 00	265 00	1,231 25	536 00	586 07	971 06	141 75	4,554 59
Fruit and vegetables ..	429 77	393 37	72 50	330 12	119 99	251 68	214 51	509 75	275 38	807 75	95 48	475 68	3,976 98
Fancy goods	538 00	..	420 00	132 94	176 46	69 00	171 05	1,234 45	..	153 00	5 00	416 50	3,316 40
Hardware	1,910 00	2,490 10	4,090 71	3,692 79	2,708 37	1,272 44	2,175 79	7,251 05	240 72	8,157 60	395 21	4,729 41	39,114 19
Leather-ware	439 00	155 70	265 00	928 70	370 45	414 81	507 50	523 28	31 50	889 02	56 36	1,418 23	5,999 55
Live-stock	..	..	3,692 75	321 00	600 00	305 75	1,000 00	1,600 00	1,200 00	2,395 00	2,956 25	4,110 00	18,180 75
Machinery	4 50	75 75	520 50	885 45	47 25	200 00	232 00	1,808 00	..	1,095 00	..	3,032 50	9,901 00
Musical instruments ..	..	..	..	150 00	..	..	..	..	..	560 00	..	..	710 00
Oil stores..	4,320 61	4,287 98	6,490 36	4,197 90	3,237 43	1,565 05	2,159 71	4,528 47	478 62	12,614 06	443 03	6,614 82	50,938 04
Provisions	3,456 56	2,774 42	3,986 31	1,622 73	2,514 94	565 18	1,138 57	2,204 86	891 83	3,401 02	424 25	4,162 40	27,143 07
Stationery	806 45	478 50	1,312 81	835 12	347 83	1,282 00	367 97	1,922 63	10 00	1,300 00	208 44	914 69	9,786 44
Sugar	1,480 52	1,559 75	944 78	894 28	776 24	150 17	821 67	927 10	262 54	2,007 26	114 08	1,338 16	11,276 55
Spirits	1,421 62	839 37	1,273 81	294 12	1,151 87	505 37	1,454 87	1,944 86	282 00	2,057 66	905 24	1,896 14	14,026 93
Ship chandlery	489 70	395 12	772 30	1,331 60	1,040 29	229 91	1,530 27	3,281 13	307 07	1,109 97	711 30	2,563 99	13,762 65
Specie	..	..	9,500 00	..	..	..	..	..	..	250 00	..	..	9,750 00
Shooks and staves	..	248 25	46 80	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	295 05
Tea	718 70	435 02	1,171 00	826 86	1,565 24	139 62	269 88	860 60	18 75	574 14	93 50	791 61	7,464 92
Tobacco	781 22	548 79	1,396 10	851 08	1,458 15	295 29	154 50	695 99	145 80	874 72	69 38	703 52	7,974 54
Timber	3,783 88	2,765 50	2,591 50	3,791 87	..	40 00	1,343 49	3,937 90	..	1,850 38	405 62	1,703 75	22,213 89
Wine	537 25	410 00	1,167 47	42 00	213 75	382 13	861 75	901 00	135 00	779 87	450 81	916 50	6,797 53
Woolpacks	400 91	790 25	364 50	991 50	140 50	..	207 50	1,163 25	..	881 84	175 00	696 61	5,811 86
Total	36,358 88	28,780 04	57,323 50	32,600 99	26,034 82	15,377 86	29,104 24	60,678 44	13,699 69	65,404 26	13,832 54	59,070 70	438,265 96 = £87,653

No. 34.

EXPORTS, Port of Levuka, Fiji, from October 1872 to September 1873, inclusive.

Description.	Quantity.	Value.	Countries whither Exported.
		Dols. c.	
Beche de mer ..	713 bags	16,260 00	Australian Colonies.
Cotton .. .	3.495 bales	366,975 00	Great Britain and Australia.
Cotton seed	35½ tons	2,162 50	Australian Colonies.
Copra	258 „	12,775 00	„ „
Candle-nuts	16 „	450 00	„ „
Cocoa-nuts	65,150	650 00	„ „
Fibre	1,513 bundles	4,079 16	„ „
Kava	4 mats	90 00	„ „
Gum	1 case	10 00	New Zealand.
Maize	1,044 bushels	652 00	Australian Colonies.
Oil (cocoa-nut) ..	188 casks, 9 tuns, 39 barrels, 2 drums	12,540 00	„ „
Skins and hides ..	11 bundles, 4 bales, 140 hides ..	259 00	„ „
Shell, tortoise ..	14 cases, 4 boxes	6,300 00	Great Britain and Australia.
„ pearl	1 bag	25 00	Australian Colonies.
Pea-nuts	46 bags	92 00	„ „
Sandle-wood	162 pieces	107 00	„ „
Wool	7 bales	513 00	„ „
Fruit	454 bananas, 3,000 oranges	73 00	New Zealand.
		424,013 16 = £84,802	

(Signed) D. H. SMART, *Collector of Customs.*

November 13, 1873.

No. 35.

ACCOUNT of Lands already Conveyed by King Cakobau to the Polynesian Land Company (Limited).

District.	Property.	Planters.	Acreage.		Total.
			Cultivated.	Uncleared.	
					Acres.
Bega	Putrie Island, less the Western end	None.	None.	All.	10,000
Suva	Harbour, the islets in the bay and surrounding lands, including frontages to Leucala Bay and the Waimana River, and rivers entering harbours.	Brewer and Joske. Armstrong Brothers. Fiji Planting Company of Ballarat. Dr. McGrath. Mr. Thomas. T. B. Matthews, and about thirty small holders or settlers.	About 400 acres.	About 26,600 acres.	27,000
Viti Levu Bay ..	Block around the Bay and Raku Raku River.	Trespassers only.	About 50 acres, by trespassers.	49,950	50,000
Natawa Bay ..	Block 4 miles square, on the north side of harbour.	Thomas Reed, for himself and co-partners in Melbourne.	About 100 acres.	9,900	10,000
			550	96,450	97,000
	Deduct 7,000 acres for adverse claimants, &c.				7,000
	Equal		..	..	90,000

No. 36.

Copy of Charter, signed by King Cakobau, granted to the Polynesian Land Company.

KNOW all men by these presents that I, King Thakombau, of the Bau Dominions, in consideration of William Harry O'Halloran Brewer, and John Lavington Evans, of Melbourne, in the Colony of Victoria, now on a visit to me as delegates and agents, appointed for and on behalf of a certain company, about to be formed in the said colony, under the Company's Statute, 1864, hereby under-

taking for and on behalf of such company, and immediately after its formation, to make suitable provision for the settlement of the claim of 9,000*l.* preferred against me, the said King, for and on behalf of the Government of the United States of America, for losses said to have been sustained by certain American subjects who resided in my kingdom, owing to certain alleged depredations and acts of incendiarism committed and caused by my native subjects, which said claim the said Government of the United States of America are now threatening to enforce,—do, by these presents, for ever grant and cede, transfer, and set over unto the said William Harry O'Halloran Brewer and John Lavington Evans, and also Andrew Lyell and Frederick Cook, of Melbourne, aforesaid, gentlemen (hereinafter called trustees), for and on behalf of the said intended company, the several islands, parts of islands, and other territory in Fiji, forming part of my kingdom, which are respectively set forth in the schedule hereunto written, together with the soil or beds of all seas, rivers, and waters adjacent to or abutting on the scheduled territory or any part or parts thereof, and all harbours, seas, rivers, creeks, and inlets thereunto belonging or appertaining, or which the said trustees, or the said intending company may now or hereafter think necessary for the settlement or enjoyment of the said scheduled territory or any part or parts thereof, and also all mines or minerals in or upon the same. And in consideration of the said company paying to me annually the sum of one thousand dollars, I, on the part of myself and my successors, for ever grant to the said company exemption from all taxation or imposts on the importation into or the exportation from any of the lands, harbours, rivers, &c., that now or hereafter shall form part of the said scheduled territory, and I also grant to the said company for the term of twenty-one years, to establish in any part or parts of my Kingdom banking institutions, and I undertake not to give such right to any other person or company in my territory, and the right to issue and circulate throughout all or any part of my kingdom bank notes. And I, the said King, pledge myself to protect the inhabitants and settlers of the lands of the company from native or other violence, molestation, interference, attacks, pillages, and robberies, both from within and without. In witness whereof I, the said King, have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty-third day of July, in the year of Our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight.

(Signed) EPINISA CAKOBAU, his ⋈ mark. (Seal.)

Signed, sealed, and delivered by King Thakombau, in the presence of:

(Signed) J. C. Smith.
Joseph Curtis.
R. Spowart.
John Spiers.

And we, the Undersigned, being the principal Chiefs under King Thakombau, hereby ratify and confirm in all respects the foregoing Charter.

(Signed) SAVANAKA NAULIVOU, his ⋈ mark.
RATU DRANIBAKA, his ⋈ mark.
RATU EPELI NAILATIKAU, his ⋈ mark.
RATU IIJIA TOROCO, his ⋈ mark.
SITIVANI TUKANA, his ⋈ mark.
MARIKA TOROCA.

Witnesses to signatures:

(Signed) J. C. Smith.
Joseph Curtis.
R. Spowart.
John Spiers.

The Schedule.

"200,000 (two hundred thousand) acres of land, of which the following blocks are a portion:—

"1. Commencing from the River Ruku Ruku, in Viti Levu Bay, following the coast towards the Bau to the township of Veidrala and back inland, making it a square block.

"2. Also land at Thakandrora, Natavai Bay, Island of Vanua Levu (4) four miles, commencing from the township of Tivo, up the coast, and about the same distance inland.

"Also the Island of M'Benga and the following islands:—Moturiki, Levuka, Malumu, Nanuku, within that reef.

"4. Also Suva, its harbour, territories, and district commencing from Lami, running along the coast towards Rewa to the township of Kalabo, and running inland to the Wai-manu.

"And I also agree to cede other lands suitable for the occupation of the company, or extend the boundaries of one or other of the foregoing tracts of country above ceded in the same proportion of coast to inland, to complete the grant of (200,000) two hundred thousand acres.

(Signed) EPENISA CAKOBAU, his ⋈ mark.
SAVANAKA NAULIVOU, his ⋈ mark.
RATU DRANIBAKA, his ⋈ mark.
RATU EPELI NAILATIKAU, his ⋈ his mark.
RATU ELIJIA TOROKA, his ⋈ mark.
SITIVANA TUKANA, his ⋈ mark.
MARIKA TOROKA.

Witnesses to signatures:

(Signed) J. C. Smith.
Joseph Curtis.
R. Spowart.
John Spiers.

No. 37.

POPULATION of Fiji, roughly estimated, March 1874.

Bua	7,000
Macuata	7,000
Cakaudrove	15,000
Lau	8,000
Kadavu	10,000
Central	8,000
Tai Levu	10,000
Naitisiri and interior	20,000
Rewa	5,500
Serua	5,000
Namosi	7,000
Nadroga	20,000
Ra and Yasawas	18,000
Total native population	140,500

EUROPEAN.

Males beyond the Municipality of Levuka	1,066
Women and children	150
Ratepayers within Municipality	260
Women and children	150
Fluctuating population	160
Total	1,786

No. 38.

Cabinet Meeting, October 22, 1872.

Present:

The Chief Secretary.
The Minister of Finance.
The Minister for Native Affairs.

(Extract.)

Polynæsian Company.

IN pursuance with invitation Mr. C. R. Forwood met the Cabinet with reference to his letter of the 16th instant, protesting against the action and language of the Honourable G. A Woods in the matter of his Company's claims, &c.

Mr. Forwood was informed as to the instructions of Mr. Woods that he was authorized to place himself in communication with the Directors of this Company, but that the Cabinet did not hold itself responsible for the wording of any telegram. Secondly, and after fair consideration, the Cabinet could not see that any personal insult was involved in the telegram. The Government had as much right to send an Agent to confer with the Directors as the Directors to send an Agent to confer with the Government, and the word "useless" does not admit of an offensive construction only.

The Cabinet at some length reviewed the history of the Company's adventure, and in the plainest language laid before Mr. Forwood the danger and difficulty, not to say iniquity, of removing in a summary manner the inhabitants of 200,000 acres of agricultural country. It expressed its entire willingness to endeavour by every lawful and just means to give the Company the area of land to which they were entitled, in accordance with the pledge given by Ministers in their places during the last Session. At the same time the present Cabinet fully alive to the questionable circumstances attending the contract between King Cakobau and the Agents of the Polynesian Company, and to the undoubted fact, that much of the land ceded was not at the time of cession subject to the authority of the King and to the difficulty and injustice of summarily ejecting a numerous agricultural people from their hereditary planting grounds, desired the Company may be informed that the pledge is solely to use the Cabinet's best endeavours to arrive at a peaceful solution of this difficulty. To eject by force the natives of certain lands claimed by the Company would be to bring an unjust and expensive war.

The Cabinet were willing to advise His Majesty to add 20,000 acres of land to the present Suva block upon the south coast of Viti Levu, where it is sparsely populated, and to use its best efforts with Tui Cakau to cede the 10,000 acres adjoining the ten already ceded in Natava Bay.

The removal of natives from Benga Island and elsewhere was next discussed, and the Cabinet informed Mr. Forwood that it thought the Company should express its willingness to lay off certain reserves for native use, to fall in, in course of time as the native difficulty became more removed by their gradual transfer to other lands. Mr. Forwood on part of the Company expressed his readiness to abandon all banking privileges and claims to exception from taxation.

No. 39.

Sir, *Chief Secretary's Department, Bau, March* 8, 1874.

INCLOSED I beg to furnish you with a copy of the Resolution in Council by which native lands were to be gradually turned over to the Government, and refered to in your letter of the 4th instant. Also copy of a Resolution in Council by which the King and Chiefs accepted the responsibility of the debt of Fiji.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN B. THURSTON, *Chief Secretary.*

Commodore J. G. Goodenough, R.N.,
Commanding the Australian Station;
E. L. Layard, Esq.,
Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, Fiji and Tonga.

Na Lewa ni Bose ni Tui.

E na Vale ni Veibose e Nasova, enai ka 24 ni Siga ni Vula ko Sepiteba, 1873.

Era sa bose vata ko Irana Bosi ka sa liu vei ira No Maafu.

Era sa lewa—

NI Reimami sa vakabauta na dinau ni Matanitu sa loni ai Reimami ga me kakua ni tarogi tale na soli sa vo eua veiyasaua na ka ga sa rawatu me kau mai sa meda qai vakatekivu vakaviuaka me sa rawa ga mai muri ka me vokatekivu na soli vou mai na vulako suni sa oti eua yaboki ga aqo. Na nodia soli natagane e tini na silini ka nodia na alewa erua na silina ena oaboki aqo.

(Translation.)

Order in Council.

AT a Council Chamber at Nasova on the 24th September 1873.

The Council assembled presided over by Maafu.

Resolved—

That while we accept the responsibility of the debts of the Kingdom we still think that the taxes unpaid in the various provinces should not be pressed for, but that whatever has been paid in should be brought up. Let us, however, commence afresh the taxes due from the 1st of June last to be fully paid; 10*s.* from the men and 2*s.* from the women.

Extract from the Minutes of a Meeting of the Privy Council, held on the 9th November, 1871.

THE LAND QUESTION.

THE land policy of the Government was explained to His Majesty, who expressed his opinion that the proper course would be; after the Chiefs had divided among themselves the land actually needed for the maintenance of the people, for the Government to put up the remaining areas for sale.

Extract from the Minutes of a Meeting of the Privy Council, held on the 9th day of November, 1871.

Present:

His Majesty the King.
His Excellency the Viceroy of Lau.
Ratu Epeli.
Ratu Dranibaka.
Ratu Tevita.
Tui Levuka.
Tui Nakelo.
Tui Noco.
Ritora Tui Macuata.
His Majesty's Ministers.

THE opinion of His Majesty having been sought as to the best means of deciding what will constitute available Crown lands, the King explained that the course adopted by the Viceroy of Lau in the Eastern Group of distributing among the Chiefs the areas necessary for the maintenance of their people, and the reservation of the balance as the property of the Crown should, in his opinion, be carried out here as an easy solution of the question. This was approved by the Chiefs.

Report of Commodore Goodenough and and Mr. Consul Layard on the Offer of the Cession of the Fiji Islands to the British Crown.

(In continuation of Command Paper [C.—983] of April 1874.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty. July 1874.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.

CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

CESSION OF FIJI,

AND THE

PROVISIONAL ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT.

(In continuation of Command Paper 1011, July 1874.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
February 6, 1875.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.

[C.—1114.] *Price* 1*s.* 3*d.*

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Correspondence respecting the Cession of Fiji, and the Provisional Arrangements made for Administering the Government.

No. 1.

Summary of Telegraphic Communications between the Earl of Carnarvon and Governor Sir H. Robinson, K.C.M.G., during the interval between the receipt of the Report of Commodore Goodenough and Mr. Consul Layard and the departure of Sir H. Robinson for Fiji.

ON the 15th July, 1874, the Earl of Carnarvon informed Sir H. Robinson by telegraph that Her Majesty's Government had determined that it was necessary to decline the acceptance of the cession of Fiji on the conditions appended, with the signature of Mr. Thurston, to the Commissioners' Report, but would recommend the Queen to accept it on the general understanding mentioned in paragraph 52 of that Report, namely, that the Chiefs, withdrawing all conditions, would trust to the generosity and justice of Her Majesty.

That the Commissioners having gone beyond what had been expected of them in expressing themselves strongly in favour of annexation, Her Majesty's Government desired to place any further action in the hands of Sir H. Robinson, as not being committed to any view, and so able to act firmly and independently.

That he would therefore be invested with authority to act alone in this matter, and should hold himself ready to proceed to Fiji on receipt of further instructions.

On the 10th August the Earl of Carnarvon requested Sir H. Robinson, if public business should permit of his being absent from New South Wales for a few weeks, to proceed at once to Fiji, and explain to all persons concerned that Her Majesty could not be advised to accept the cession of the Islands on the conditions proposed by Mr. Thurston, but that if all questions as to the future constitution of the Colony, titles to land, compensation, and pensions were freely left to the decision of Her Majesty's Government, all claims and interests would be fully inquired into and fairly dealt with.

Sir H. Robinson was further instructed that the financial liabilities of the previous Government of Fiji could not be assumed without full examination; that the monopoly purporting to be held by the Banking Company was objectionable; that the titles under which Europeans claimed to hold land must be subject to investigation; and that the reasonable rights and interests of the native Chiefs would be recognized as far as might be consistent with British sovereignty, and with the establishment of a Colonial Government.

He was also informed that if the cession should be clearly assured he might make such sparing advances of money as might be absolutely necessary to prevent trouble arising on account of over-due wages and return passages due to labourers employed by insolvent planters, from whom bonds and mortgages and the fullest guarantees should be required.

Lord Carnarvon concluded by assuring Sir H. Robinson that he confidently relied upon his exercising the greatest prudence and skill in this difficult matter, and desiring him if he should feel doubtful on any point to apply for further instructions before sailing.

In telegrams dated the 15th, 16th, and 17th August Sir H. Robinson replied that, having conferred with his Ministers, who were most anxious to meet the views of Her

Majesty's Government, he was of opinion that arrangements could be made for his leaving Sydney for Fiji early in the ensuing month, and that there were several points in regard to which it was desirable that he should know more clearly and fully the wishes of Her Majesty's Government, and that the extent of his powers should be more precisely defined.

He proceeded to ask, first, whether, in the event of an offer of unconditional cession being made, he had authority to act as he did in the case of Kow-lun, near Hong Kong, *i.e.*, to accept the cession in the Queen's name, and make the best available temporary arrangements for the establishment of a Provisional Government, pending the issue of an Order in Council prescribing a form of constitution and providing for legislation.

He next inquired what was to follow in the event of the Chiefs declining to make an unconditional offer, as the existing temporary arrangement under which order was maintained by the Consuls supported by men-of-war could not continue. Should he seek to obtain a Treaty conferring magisterial powers and exclusive jurisdiction over Her Majesty's subjects upon the British Consul, as specially provided in Treaties with China and Japan? should he treat for the lease of a site for a British Settlement, or for the absolute cession of a small island for the formation of a British free port, like Hong Kong or Singapore? or should he take no further steps?

On the 25th August the Earl of Carnarvon telegraphed to Sir H. Robinson, in reply to the foregoing queries, that he was at liberty to accept the cession of the islands if it should be unconditional or virtually unconditional, and to make arrangements for a temporary Government; and, failing this, that he should notify the probable establishment of Consular jurisdiction over British subjects, for which no consent was needed; and, in that case, that it might be necessary to treat for the acquisition of some small island with a harbour in a commanding position. That, if an offer accompanied by amended conditions appearing unobjectionable should be made, he must report it for further instructions, but Lord Carnarvon hoped he would succeed in bringing the matter to a settlement.

Sir H. Robinson telegraphed on the 6th September that he now only awaited Mr. Parkes', the Premier's, return to Sydney, and expected to start for Fiji in the "Pearl" on Saturday the 12th September.

No. 2.

Governor Sir H. Robinson, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(*Received November* 18.)

My Lord, *"Pearl," Island of Taviuni, Fiji, October* 3, 1874.

AS an opportunity occurs to-day for sending letters to England by the San Francisco mail steamer, I think it well, although the negotiations have not yet been finally concluded, to acquaint your Lordship with the progress that I have made so far in the mission with which I have been entrusted.

2. I left Sydney on the evening of the 12th ultimo, and after a passage of eleven days, including a detention of twenty-four hours at Norfolk Island, I arrived in Levuka harbour on the afternoon of the 23rd of September.

3. I at once learnt that the general feeling amongst the white settlers, and also amongst some of the natives, in favour of annexation, was less strong than it had been in consequence of the recent debate in the House of Lords upon Fiji, a Report of which had been received at Levuka by the mail which had reached that port a few days before my arrival. Persons whose interests were adverse to the establishment of good government had taken advantage of expressions in your Lordship's speech as to the Crown right of pre-emption in all lands, and as regards the "severe" form of government which would have to be adopted in the event of annexation, to excite distrust in the minds of both Europeans and natives on these subjects. The wildest reports were circulated. All private lands were to be confiscated, and Fiji was to be a penal settlement. Already 300 marines had left Portsmouth to garrison the place and coerce the inhabitants! I merely mention these absurd rumours as their prevalence obliged me, in my subsequent negotiations, to correct as far as I could such mischievous misrepresentations.

4. Upon the day after my arrival, I paid a formal visit to Thakombau and four other principal ruling Chiefs, who had come to Levuka to meet me. I annex an extract from a local paper giving an account of this interview, during which no business was transacted;

but I informed the King that whenever he felt inclined to enter upon business, I would explain to him frankly and fully the object of my visit.

5. Upon the following day (25th September) Thakombau came to see me by appointment on board Her Majesty's ship "Dido" (the "Pearl" being engaged in coaling), and we then discussed unreservedly the question of annexation in all its bearings. I placed clearly before the King the views of Her Majesty's Government. At first Thakombau seemed much depressed and reserved, but before the close of the interview, which lasted for more than two hours, he became cheerful and communicative, illustrating the opinions which he expressed with much force and humour, and in a manner which showed clearly that he perfectly apprehended the points under discussion. At the commencement of the interview he said he would take time to think of his position, and would consult with the other Chiefs as to what was best to be done; but towards the close he expressed himself strongly in favour of an unconditional cession of the Islands to the Queen, observing that "any Fijian Chief who refuses to cede cannot have much wisdom. . . . . If matters remain as they are, Fiji will become like a piece of drift-wood on the sea, and be picked up by the first passer by. . . . . By annexation the two races, white and black, will be bound together, and it will be impossible to sever them. The 'interlacing' has come. Fijians as a nation are of an unstable character, and a white man who wishes to get anything out of a Fijian, if he does not succeed in his object to-day, will try again to-morrow, until the Fijian is either wearied out or over-persuaded, and gives in. But law will bind us together, and the stronger nation will lend stability to the weaker."

6. The result of the interview was, I think, on the whole, entirely satisfactory, and the views expressed by the King displayed so much intelligence and unselfishness that I am sure your Lordship will feel interested in perusing a full report of the conversation. I accordingly inclose a copy of the notes which were taken down at the time by a member of my personal staff, who was present during the interview.

7. Upon the 28th it was intimated to me by a message from the King that, after two days' discussion in Council, he and the other Chiefs then present in Levuka had agreed to the following resolution:—

"We give Fiji unreservedly to the Queen of Britain, that she may rule us justly and affectionately, and that we may live in peace and prosperity."

8. I then forwarded to the King a draft of a Deed of Cession which I had prepared, and stated that, when it had been interpreted and fully explained to the Chiefs, I would be prepared to accept the signatures of such of them as were in Levuka, and on its execution by the remainder of the ruling authorities I would formally accept the cession, and establish a provisional Government until Her Majesty's pleasure as to the future constitution of the islands could be known.

9. The following day, the 29th, was devoted by the Chiefs to the consideration of the Deed of Cession, and in the evening it was intimated to me that the King and Chiefs would be prepared to sign at Nasova, the public offices of Levuka, on the morning of the 30th of September.

10. I accordingly proceeded to Nasova at 10 o'clock on the morning of the 30th, when the King read and handed to me the formal resolution of the Council giving Fiji unreservedly to the Queen. The Deed of Cession was then read in Fijian, and the instrument executed by the King and the four other ruling Chiefs who were present. I inclose a Minute of the proceedings, with copies attached of the resolution of Council and Deed of Cession.

11. I then invited Thakombau to accompany me on a tour of the islands to obtain the signatures of Maafu and of the other Chiefs not then in Levuka, whose assent was necessary to the validity of the cession. This he at once cheerfully agreed to, and we left Levuka the same afternoon in Her Majesty's ships "Pearl" and "Dido" for Loma-Loma, Maafu's capital, at which place we arrived on the morning of the 1st instant.

12. That day was occupied in receiving and paying visits of ceremony; and on the morning of the 2nd, Thakombau brought Maafu, the Chief of Lau, and Tui Thakau, the Chief of Thakaundrové, on board the "Pearl," when the Deed of Cession was fully explained to and executed by them. I inclose a copy of the notes of the meeting.

13. I am now on my way to Ritova, the Chief of Mathuata in Vanua Levu, and propose, when I have received his assent to the cession, to return to Levuka, where I hope to find assembled the few remaining Chiefs whose signatures it is desirable to obtain.

Practically, however, with Thakombau's, Maafu's, and Tui Thakau's unconditional tender of cession, the question may be considered as disposed of.

14. When the Chiefs have all executed the deed, I shall formally accept the country in the Queen's name, and assume the administration of the Government.

15. There is one clause in the Deed of Cession upon which I think it as well to make here a few explanatory observations. I refer to clause 4, which deals with the land, a question which has given me much anxious consideration. If I had avoided all specific reference to land in the deed, restricting it to a simple unconditional cession of the Sovereignty of Fiji, such a course would, I feel sure, have given rise to future difficulties and complications, and, probably, charges of breach of faith. Considering that all writers upon the land question, from Consul Prichard down to the present time, have agreed that every acre of land in Fiji is private property, it would unquestionably have been contended that a mere cession of sovereignty did not convey the absolute proprietorship of the soil. If, on the other hand, any clause had been inserted transferring to Her Majesty the possession of all lands irrespective of private ownership, and the requirements of various tribes, such a provision would never have been assented to peacefully, and the attempt to insert it would, I think, have fairly lent a colour to the rumours of confiscation and spoliation of private rights which had been so industriously circulated. I accordingly determined, after lengthened conferences with Mr. Innes, the Attorney-General of New South Wales, by whom I am accompanied as legal adviser, to insert the clause 4 in the shape in which it will be found in the accompanying copy of the Instrument of Cession. The clause simply vests in Her Majesty the absolute ownership of all lands not shown by those laying claim to them to be *bonâ fide* the property of Europeans or other foreigners, or not required for the maintenance and support of Chiefs and tribes, leaving Her Majesty's Government to be the ultimate judge as to what lands have been fairly acquired by Europeans, and what extent is required for the support of the natives. It would have been impossible to have gone further than this without injustice, and without giving rise at the outset of British rule to serious disaffection and difficulties. The clause as it stands is in unison with native feeling and precedent, and is, I think, satisfactory to all except such of the whites as entertain doubts regarding the *bonâ fide* character of their titles. As showing how thoroughly the proposal is understood by the native mind, I inclose a copy of a question put in Council by Ratu Savanaca when the Chiefs were discussing clause 4 of the Deed of Cession; he expressed satisfaction at the proposed settlement, but asked how about the disposal of land assigned to the Government for the use of Chiefs and tribes? Would the parties to whom such lands might be allotted have the right to sell or assign, or would the Crown claim the right of pre-emption? In reply to this inquiry which was brought to me informally through Mr. Wilkinson the interpreter, I intimated that the consideration of these points would form an important element in the labours of the Commission to be appointed for the purpose of inquiring into and determining upon the whole land question, and that these and other points would be settled in the manner which should be shown to be most just and advantageous for the interests of the Chiefs and Tribes. It will be a matter for serious consideration whether, having regard to the improvident character of the natives, it will be good policy to confer upon them the right of absolutely disposing of their property.

16. I shall not fail to advise your Lordship fully by the next opportunity of the further progress of negotiations; but I cannot delay this letter longer, as I am obliged to dispatch it by special boat for Levuka this morning to catch the mail steamer for San Francisco, which is expected to-morrow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERCULES ROBINSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 2.

Extract from the "Fiji Times" of September 26, 1874.

Arrival of Sir Hercules Robinson.—His Excellency Sir Hercules Robinson, the Governor of New South Wales, arrived here, on board Her Britannic Majesty's ship "Pearl," on Wednesday afternoon.

At half-past 3 o'clock, on Thursday, his Excellency received the Mayor and Municipal Council of Levuka on board the ship; Sir Hercules having expressed a wish to meet them there, rather than on landing, so that no interference might be caused to any arrangements which might have been made for his reception at Nasova. Upon their arrival on board, the members of the Council were introduced by Mr. Layard, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul; and the Mayor, after a few preliminary words of welcome, read the following address:—

"To his Excellency Sir Hercules Robinson, K.C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-chief and Vice-Admiral of New South Wales and its dependencies, &c., Her Majesty's Special Commissioner to the Kingdom of Fiji.

"May it please your Excellency,—

"We, the Mayor and Corporation of the City of Levuka, subjects of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, address your Excellency on the part of our fellow-citizens, and in bidding you welcome to these shores, beg to express our heartfelt loyalty to Her Majesty, and our esteem and respect for your Excellency.

"We venture to assure you that whatever your mission may be, and however it may terminate, we shall never cease to foster those true and warm sentiments of affection for our native country, which every Englishman holds it his chief pride to maintain in whatever place or clime he may be.

"Feeling assured that your Excellency will find, during your sojourn in Fiji, that you are in the midst of a law-abiding and order-loving people, and trusting that you may enjoy your short stay amongst us, we have the honour to be your Excellency's most respectful servants, the Municipal Council of Levuka, by

"Otty Cudlip, *Mayor*;
"T. Klinesmith, *Town Clerk*.

"*Town Hall, Levuka, September* 24, 1874."

The Mayor then handed the address (which was engrossed on parchment and had been most tastefully illuminated by Mr. Klinesmith, the Town Clerk) to his Excellency, who was pleased to make the following reply :—

"Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen of the Municipal Council of Levuka,

"I thank you sincerely for the loyal and gratifying address which you have presented to me, and for the cordial welcome you have afforded me on my arrival in Fiji.

"I am glad to have this opportunity of becoming acquainted with this interesting country, and I trust that my visit may prove advantageous as well to the large body of natives as to the comparatively small number of white settlers in these beautiful islands.

"*September* 24, 1874."

The Council, which had been most courteously received, then retired.

Commodore Goodenough, the Honourable Mr. Hutchinson, and his Excellency's Private Secretary were also present at the interview.

At about 4 o'clock, his Excellency left the "Pearl" under the usual salute, and proceeded to Nasova, where he was received by His Majesty, who was attended by the Honourable Mr. Thurston, Chief Secretary, and the Honourable Mr. Ryder, Minister of Finance. The landing took place at a jetty which had been constructed specially, and which was most tastefully decorated with flags, plants, &c. After having been introduced to the King, his Excellency, who was attended by the Commodore, Captain Chapman of the "Dido," the Honourable Mr. Innes, Attorney-General of New South Wales, the Honourable Mr. Hutchinson, and his Private Secretary, proceeded to the reception-room at Nasova. His Excellency was met by Ratu Joseph, their Honours the Judges, the American and Hawaiian Consuls, the Attorney-General, Ratu Savanaca, Tui Bua, Majors Harding and Thurston, the King's Private Secretary, and a few others. The press was represented by Mr. Reeve, "S. M. Herald," Mr. Britton, "Melbourne Argus," and Mr. Solomon, "Fiji Times." Mr. Wilkinson was in attendance as interpreter.

By desire of the King the following gentlemen were presented to his Excellency :— Sir Charles St. Julian, Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Garrick, Honourable S. C. Burt, Attorney-General, Dr. Brower, American Consul, Mr. Murray, Hawaiian Consul, Ratu Savanaca, and Tui Bua.

After having taken his seat, his Excellency desired that the King should be informed that he now merely paid him a ceremonial visit; and would not, therefore, enter upon matters of a business nature; which he hoped, however, would have their early attention. Upon the King expressing his acquiescence, his Excellency asked for Ratu Joseph, and upon his being introduced, reminded him that he had seen him in Sydney, and also said that Lady Robinson had requested him to state that she had received a letter from him with which she was much pleased, and he was glad to see how well it was written and how correctly expressed. His Excellency then intimated to the King his gratification at the appearance of Levuka, which far exceeded all that he had been lead to expect; and that he hoped the King would come and see him on board, when the matters, concerning which he had come to Fiji, could be discussed.

Upon this, the King stated that he should like the Governor to send him a written statement, setting forth clearly and without disguise, what was really required and proposed; and then he would consider the propositions and be able to come on board prepared with an answer. The King then asked the Governor how long he was coming from Sydney, and some other questions concerning the voyage.

His Excellency invited the King to visit him in Sydney, to which His Majesty replied that, if the matters concerning which the Governor had come down were settled to their mutual satisfaction, he would certainly come. His Excellency then asked the King if he would come on board the "Dido" and see him on Friday (yesterday), and upon His Majesty assenting, 11 o'clock of that day was appointed for the visit.

After some few remarks his Excellency and suite took their leave and were escorted to their boats by the King and his Ministers.

The quadrangle and grounds were crowded with visitors; there having been about 200 Europeans and 400 natives present; and the tasty and varied toilettes of the many ladies who graced the scene, lent it a charm not often seen in our small town.

Upon leaving, his Excellency was saluted with three hearty British cheers, which he courteously acknowledged. The guard of honour was under the command of Captain Blackmore.

At 11 o'clock yesterday, His Majesty returned the Governor's visit, and was received on the "Dido" with a royal salute. The interview lasted about two hours, and was, we believe, strictly private.

Inclosure 2 in No. 2.

Notes of a Conversation which took place on board Her Majesty's ship "Dido" between Thakombau and Sir Hercules Robinson, on Friday, the 25th of September, 1874; the observations on either side being translated by Mr. Wilkinson, one of the ablest and most reliable of the Interpreters in Fiji.

Sir H. Robinson.—Thakombau, I am glad to have met you, and to have met you in this informal way. I hope you will be frank with me, communicating to me any points upon which you may entertain doubt or difficulty. My intention is to tell you the truth, and nothing but the truth. My object in these negotiations is to do what in my opinion is best for you and for your people. I hope that you will feel that you are speaking to a friend, and that you will open to me your whole mind without reserve.

Thakombau.—"Sa vinaka" (It is good).

Sir Hercules Robinson.—The English Government have received the offer of cession made through the Commissioners—Commodore Goodenough and Mr. Layard, but, in consequence of the conditions attached to the offer, it cannot be accepted. The Queen could not, having regard to Her desire effectually to provide for the good government of the Fijian people, and also to her own dignity, accept a cession so hampered.

If, however, the Chiefs are prepared to tender an unconditional cession of the sovereignty of Fiji, trusting in the justice and generosity of the Queen, I am authorized on behalf of Her Majesty to accept such a cession, and to say that Great Britain would then accept the responsibility, and try to exercise its authority in such a manner as would best secure the prosperity and happiness of Fiji. The conditions attached to the proposed cession, if assented to, would, as I have before observed, render impracticable the proper government of the country.

I am authorized, further, in the event of such an unconditional cession being offered, the Chiefs trusting wholly to the justice and generosity of the Queen, to establish a temporary and provisional Government before I leave the Islands.

In the event of the King and Chiefs placing themselves unreservedly under Great Britain, it would be the wish of the Government to deal with King, Chiefs, and people, not only equitably, but liberally. The rights and interests, both of the King and of other Chiefs, would be recognized so far as is consistent with British sovereignty and Colonial form of Government.

As regards financial liabilities and engagements entered into since 1871, the Queen's Government would have them carefully scrutinized, and they would be dealt with in accordance with principles of justice and sound public policy. Any alleged lien upon your private property in connection with funds raised purely for public purposes would not be enforced by the Queen's Government.

As regards titles to land, whether made by *bonâ fide* or fictitious sales, and as

regards your pension and other similar matters, these are all questions that the British Government would look carefully into, and settle on an equitable and liberal basis. You would be placed in a position which would make it unnecessary for you to rely upon the contributions of the people for your support. The desire of the British Government will be to secure to you an independence commensurate with your former rank and position in the country.

I think I have now explained the general views of the Queen's Government, and I would repeat that, although only prepared to accept an unconditional cession, the Government would, I feel sure, desire to act in accordance with the general principles which I have sketched out.

It, will, therefore, be necessary for you to decide whether you can make the cession in the only form which, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, is compatible with the future good government of the country. If you think that you can make the cession in that form, well and good, if not, you have but to say so.

I now ask you to decide whether you would wish me to say anything further, namely, as to the course of conduct the British Government would be likely to pursue in the event of unconditional cession not being offered. The question for you to consider at present is, whether you will answer yes or no; unconditional cession or not; and if you decide in the negative, I shall then have to arrange what must be done. If you wish to have the whole case before you, I will go on, but I fear to confuse you with too many points at once.

[This was translated, and Mr. Wilkinson, having heard a somewhat lengthened answer from Thakombau, informed his Excellency that Thakombau "did not reply directly," and then proceeded to interpret his reply.]

Thakombau.—I am glad to hear all that has been spoken, and I am very much gratified at the plain, straightforward, and unmystified way in which the case has been put. It has been built up step by step.

There are two things (*sic*), first, giving the country up to England is merely a matter of a word. All our people obey us, and the greater part of the Chiefs will think that what I do is right. Whether I say that word or not is another question; it is matter for consideration, and I will take time to think of it, and consult with the other Chiefs. Second, in reference to the future. If cession takes place, various points that you have mentioned will doubtless crop up day by day. What I say is this: Why have any anxiety about the future? What is the future?—Britain. When the Commodore and the Consul came here, they took different ground to that which you have taken. They kept saying, "Tell us what you want," and pressing me to do so; hence the conditions attached to the offer of cession. But the Queen is right, conditions are not chief-like. I was myself from the first opposed to them, but was overruled. If I give a chief a canoe, and he knows that I expect something from him, I do not say, "I give you this canoe on condition of your only sailing it on certain days; of your not letting such and such a man on to it; or of your only using a particular kind of rope with it;" but I give him the canoe right out, and trust to his generosity and good faith to make me the return which he knows I expect. If I were to attach conditions, he would say, "I do not care to be bothered with your canoe; keep it yourself."

My decision in this matter will be for the good of the people and of Fiji. For the Chiefs and for myself I have no fear. We shall never be otherwise than well off. Our people will always do what we want; grow us our yams, and make our houses, and canoes, and mats. It is the people who must be considered, and their interests secured.

My answer will be given without delay; probably to-morrow or next day.

Sir Hercules Robinson.—I should like you to understand clearly what I mean when I say that I would rather not discuss the state of things which would arise, and the steps that I should have to take in the event of no cession being made, unless you yourself desire that I state them. I am anxious not to bias your judgment on the main point in any way. But if you wish, I will discuss these questions now, so that you may have the whole case before you. If otherwise, I will stop for the present, leaving you to reflect on the desirability of offering an unconditional cession or not.

Thakombau.—Why discuss the future, when the present is not decided upon? As for myself and the trustworthy Chiefs, we would give up the country to-morrow.

Sir Hercules Robinson.—Be it so; and now as I have been given to understand that some apprehension is felt that the operation of British laws upon a native population might be harsh, I wish to explain to you that there is not so much difficulty in the government of natives by Europeans as you might imagine. I was seven years in Ceylon, the native population of which island amounts to nearly 3,000,000. [When this was translated to Thakombau, he expressed astonishment, and remarked that that was twenty times

the population of Fiji.] In some respects the Singhalese are inferior to the Fijians in civilization, particularly in that very few of them are professing Christians; but in appearance and habits of thought, and in inability to understand the English language, they are very like Fijians. It was found that they could communicate their discontents and wishes to the Government through their Chiefs, so that all evils were promptly remedied, and the people were happy and content to live under English rule; indeed, after about eighty years of British sway, it is by the native population preferred to native rule. In the same way the Fijian people could communicate their wants through their Chiefs, and the system would work as well as in Ceylon.

Thakombau.—I am very much interested to hear about Ceylon. As to the harsh operation of the English law, peace and rest is what we want. These are our riches. No riches are to be compared with these in the opinion of our Chiefs. Tumult and disquiet are poverty. Of course, in order to produce food, labour will be required; but such labour, under favourable conditions of Government, will tend to the peace and prosperity of the people.

Any Fijian Chief who refuses to cede cannot have much wisdom. If matters remain as they are, Fiji will become like a piece of drift-wood on the sea, and be picked up by the first passer-by.

Sir Hercules Robinson.—I am sorry to say that all experience teaches us that when white men settle down in a place of this sort the natives are unable to protect themselves until some strong civilized Government is established.

Thakombau.—The case is similar here. The whites who have come to Fiji are a bad lot. They are mere stalkers on the beach. The wars here have been far more the result of interference of intruders than the fault of the inhabitants.

Sir Hercules Robinson.—As to the Land Question, I have been sorry to hear that some misapprehension exists with regard to what might be the intentions of Her Majesty's Government with respect to land, which misapprehension, I am told, has arisen in consequence of the reports of a recent discussion in the House of Lords. You may be perfectly certain that nothing unjust will be done. What has occurred to me as the fairest way of arranging this matter I have this morning discovered to be included in the code of laws of the Law Confederacy, namely, that all lands which can be shown to have been fairly and honestly acquired by whites shall be secured to them; that all lands which are now in the actual use or occupation of any Chief or tribe, and such land as may be necessary for the probable future support and maintenance of any Chief or tribe, shall be set apart for them; and that all the residue of the land shall go to the Government, not for the personal advantage of Her Majesty, or the members of any Government, but for the general good—for the purposes of rule and order. The more public land there is, the less necessity for taxation, and the less burdensome to the people will be the maintenance of police, the administration of justice, the building of hospitals and other places of public charity. For such purposes as these—not for the purpose of adding to the wealth of the Queen—is it a matter of necessity to have public land.

Thakombau.—I am very much pleased to hear your sentiments as to the Land Laws, and that disputed titles will be finally adjusted. In some cases, both sides, I fear, will suffer; but it is better that such questions should be set at rest, even at the cost of a little suffering.

Of one thing I am assured, that if we do not cede Fiji, the white stalkers on the beach, the cormorants, will open their maws and swallow us.

The white residents are going about influencing the minds of Tui Thakau and others, so as to prevent annexation, fearing that in case order is established, a period may be put to their lawless proceedings.

By annexation the two races, white and black, will be bound together, and it will be impossible to sever them. The "interlacing" has come. Fijians, as a nation, are of an unstable character, and a white man who wishes to get anything out of a Fijian, if he does not succeed in his object to-day will try again to-morrow, until the Fijian is either wearied out or over-persuaded, and gives in. But law will bind us together, and the stronger nation will lend stability to the weaker.

In Fiji there are two elements besides us, namely, the whites and Maafu.

Maafu's desire has been and is to conquer Fiji. Some years ago he took possession of an island south of the Rewa, and sent an insulting message to me, to the effect that "Fiji is now divided, but when I take Rewa it will be united;" that is, under his own government. I disliked his policy, not his race. When he joined us the dislike ceased on my side. This is my mind. It is otherwise with him. Since he has joined the present Government he has found it impossible to carry out his plans, so he is trying to foment discords so as to prevent cession, and thereby further his own ends.

I wish to tell you this; it is a fact. Your presence as the Representative of Her Majesty is sufficient guarantee for peace.

Sir Hercules Robinson.—Any difficulty with Maafu or any other Chief would cease with cession. You and Maafu, and all, would become subjects of the Queen.

Thakombau.—Maafu has done us a great deal of harm. His plan is to set us one against another. Maafu's sole object is to sow the seeds of disaffection. All that has now passed away with the arrival of the Governor. There is yet one other thing that I wish to say. I wish your Excellency to lend no ear to people, whoever they may be—missionaries or others—who may seek to set you against Mr. Thurston. He has a good many enemies who will not hesitate to say all bad things of him, but I wish to say that he is a good man, and has been a faithful servant to me, and to Fiji and my people. He is the one man whom I trust before any one else, and the Chiefs repose entire confidence in him.

Sir Hercules Robinson.—I am very glad to hear you give Mr. Thurston so good a character. You may depend upon it that I shall not listen to any adverse reports that may come to my ears, but shall see him and form my own judgment of his character without allowing any external influences to bias my judgment."

The conversation then became informal, and the interview was shortly afterwards brought to a close.

[The above Report is transcribed from notes of the interview taken by Walter Hely-Hutchinson, Special Attaché to the Mission.]

Inclosure 3 in No. 2.

Minute of Proceedings at a Visit paid by Sir Hercules Robinson to Thakombau, at Nasova, on the 30th of September 1874, *in order to hear Thakombau's reply to certain questions addressed to him by Sir Hercules Robinson at a Meeting held on board Her Majesty's ship "Dido," at Levuka, on the 25th of September,* 1874.

AFTER some preliminary observations Mr. Wilkinson, the interpreter, read a paper in the Fijian language, embodying the resolution arrived at by a Council of Chiefs holden at Nasova on the 29th of September, 1874, and a copy of which is appended hereto.

Mr. Wilkinson then read an English translation of the same paper, in the following words:—

"We, King of Fiji, together with the High Chiefs of Fiji, hereby give our country, Fiji, unreservedly to Her Britannic Majesty Queen of Great Btitain and Ireland, and we trust and repose fully in her that she will rule Fiji justly and affectionately, that we may continue to live in peace and prosperity. And we, desiring that these Conferences may terminate well and satisfactorily, request Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador unto us, Sir Hercules George Robert Robinson, will confer with our advisers who have our confidence in these matters."

Thakombau then signed the paper.

Sir Hercules Robinson then said,—I accept in the Queen's name this cession in the spirit in which it is offered. I think that in this matter the King has acted the part of a great Chief in consulting, as he has done, only the interests of his country. From my heart I hope that British rule may be productive of prosperity to Fiji, and of peace and happiness to her people.

Mr. Wilkinson then read a Fijian translation of the Deed of Cession, and the Deed was then signed by the following Chiefs:—

Thakombau, Tui Viti, and Vunivalu, Ratu Epeli, Nailatikau, Vakawalitabua, Tui Bua, Savenaca Naulivon, Ezekeli Tabakoncora.

Sir Hercules Robinson then said that he would execute the Deed as soon as it had been signed by the remainder of the Chiefs; that he was about to start for Loma-Loma in the afternoon, and that on his return, after having obtained the signatures of the remaining ruling Chiefs, he would sign the Deed, and organize a Provisional Government. In the meantime he wished Thakombau to carry on the Government as heretofore.

The Conference then broke up.

(Signed) WALTER HELY-HUTCHINSON.

Appendix (A).

Kivua na Marama na Tui Peritania.

KEIMAMI na Tui Viti, vata kei iva na turaga lelevu kai Viti Keimami so solia Viti walega vua na Marama levu kai dau loloma mai Peritania Levu kei Airaladi ni keimami sa

Vakararavi savu ni na lewai Viti Vaka dodonui e na veilomani, me yaco Fu ga na tiko vinaka.

To Keiton keveu vua na kovunu ko Sir Hercules Robinson na nona Falai na Marama me rogoca iva na neiton vei vuki e na ka eso era na Fukuma vua ni keimami su vakuvaravi vei iva ka gara me kima vinuka na vei vosaki ogo.

(Signed) CAKOBAU R.

(Translation.)

WE, King of Fiji, together with other High Chiefs of Fiji, hereby give our country, Fiji, unreservedly to Her Britannic Majesty, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland. And we trust and repose fully in her that she will rule Fiji justly and affectionately, that we may continue to live in peace and prosperity.

And we, desiring these Conferences may terminate well and satisfactorily, request Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador, Sir Hercules George Robert Robinson, will confer with our Advisers, who have our confidence in these matters.

Appendix (B).

Instrument of Cession of the Islands of Fiji by Thakombau, styled Tui Viti and Vunivalu, and by the other high Chiefs of the said Islands, to Her Most Gracious Majesty Victoria, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, &c., &c., &c.

WHEREAS divers of the subjects of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland have, from time to time settled in the Fijian group of Islands, and have acquired property or certain pecuniary interests therein; and whereas the Fijian Chief Thakombau, styled Tui Viti, and Vunivalu, and the other high native Chiefs of the said islands are desirous of securing the promotion of civilization and Christianity, and of increasing trade and industry within the said islands; and whereas it is obviously desirable in the interests, as well of the native as of the white population, that order and good government should be established therein; and whereas the said Tui Viti and other high Chiefs have conjointly and severally requested Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland aforesaid to undertake the Government of the said islands henceforth; and whereas, in order to the establishment of British Government within the said islands, the said Tui Viti and others, the several high Chiefs thereof, for themselves and their respective tribes, have agreed to cede the possession of, and the dominion and sovereignty over, the whole of the said islands and over the inhabitants thereof, and have requested Her said Majesty to accept such cession—which cession the said Tui Viti and other high Chiefs, relying upon the justice and generosity of Her Majesty, have determined to tender unconditionally, and which cession, on the part of the said Tui Viti and other high Chiefs, is witnessed by their execution of these presents and by the formal surrender of the said territory to Her said Majesty; and whereas his Excellency Sir Hercules George Robert Robinson, Knight Commander of the most Honourable Order of St. Michael and St. George, Governor, Commander-in-chief, and Vice-Admiral of the British Colony of New South Wales and its dependencies, and Governor of Norfolk Island, hath been authorized and deputed by Her said Majesty to accept, on her behalf, the said cession:

Now these presents witness—

1. That the possession of, and full sovereignty and dominion over, the whole of the group of islands in the South Pacific Ocean known as the Fijis (and lying between the parallels of latitude of 15° south and 22° south of the equator, and between the meridians of longitude of 177° west and 175° east of the meridian of Greenwich), and over the inhabitants thereof, together with the possession of and sovereignty over the waters adjacent thereto, and of and over all ports, harbours, havens, roadsteads, rivers, estuaries, and other waters, and all reefs and foreshores within or adjacent thereto, are hereby ceded to, and accepted on behalf of, Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, her heirs and successors, to the intent that from this time forth the said islands and the waters, reefs, and other places as aforesaid, lying within the said islands, or adjacent thereto, may be annexed to and be a possession and dependency of the British Crown.

2. That the form or constitution of Government, the means of the maintenance thereof, and the laws and regulations to be administered within such islands, shall be such as Her Majesty shall prescribe and determine.

3. That, pending the making by Her Majesty as aforesaid of some more permanent provision for the Government of the said islands, his Excellency Sir Hercules George Robert Robinson, in pursuance of the powers in him vested, and with the consent and at the

request of the said Tui Viti and other high Chiefs, the ceding parties hereto, shall establish such temporary or provisional Government as to him may seem meet.

4. That the absolute proprietorship of all lands not shown to be now alienated so as to have become the *bonâ fide* property of Europeans or other foreigners, or not now in the actual use or occupation of some Chief or tribe, or not actually required for the probable future support and maintenance of some Chief or tribe, shall be, and is hereby declared to be, vested in Her said Majesty, her heirs and successors.

5. That Her Majesty shall have power, wherever it shall be deemed necessary for public purposes, to take any lands upon payment to the proprietor of a reasonable sum by way of compensation for the deprivation thereof.

6. That all now existing public buildings, houses, and offices, all enclosures and other pieces or parcels of land, now set apart or being used for public purposes, and all stores, fittings, and other articles now being used in connection with such purposes, are hereby assigned, transferred, and made over to Her said Majesty.

7. That on behalf of Her Majesty his Excellency Sir Hercules George Robert Robinson promises (1) that the rights and interests of the said Tui Viti and the other high Chiefs, the ceding parties hereto, shall be recognized so far as is and shall be consistent with British sovereignty and Colonial form of Government; (2) that all questions of financial liabilities and engagements shall be carefully scrutinized and dealt with upon principles of justice and sound public policy; (3) that all claims to title to land by whomsoever preferred, and all claims to pensions or allowances, both on the part of the said Tui Viti and other high Chiefs, and of persons now holding office under them or any of them, shall in due course be fully investigated and equitably adjusted.

In witness whereof, the whole of the contents of this Instrument of Cession having been, previously to the execution of the same, interpreted and explained to the ceding parties hereto by David Wilkinson, Esquire, the interpreter nominated by the said Tui Viti and the other high Chiefs, and accepted as such interpreter by the said Sir Hercules George Robert Robinson, the respective parties hereto have hereunto set their hands and seals.

Done at Levuka this day of in the year of our Lord 1874.

Inclosure 4 in No. 2.

Minutes of Proceedings at a Meeting between Sir Hercules Robinson, Thakombau, Maafu, and Tui Thakau, held on board Her Majesty's ship "Pearl," at Loma-Loma, on the 2nd of October, 1874.

AFTER some informal remarks, Sir Hercules Robinson said that he supposed that the King had explained to Maafu what had taken place at Levuka, and inquired whether he was of the same mind as he was when he gave the Commodore his letter of the 12th of March.

Maafu replied that he was of the same opinion.

Sir Hercules Robinson then inquired whether Tui Thakau understood the state of affairs, and whether he wished to cede Fiji unconditionally to the Queen.

Tui Thakau replied that he was of the same opinion as the rest of the Chiefs, and that he was thankful for what he had heard.

Sir Hercules Robinson then requested Mr. Wilkinson, the interpreter, to read the Fijian translation of the deed of cession.

Mr. Wilkinson then read the translation of the deed of cession.

The original instrument of cession was then signed by Maafu and Tui Thakau.

The conversation then became informal, and the meeting shortly afterwards closed.

(Signed) WALTER HELY-HUTCHINSON.

Inclosure 5 in No. 2.

Question by Ratu Savenaca.

ASSUMING that our lands are settled as sketched by Mr. Thurston, and which is in fact an arrangement of our own when the Government was first established, what are we to expect or understand as regards those lands which are either ours (privately) now, or may be, when the boundaries of town (village) lands be settled, be the property of a village or gali?

(*a.*) Are we at liberty to sell, assign, or bequeath the first as we please, or will the Crown claim a right of pre-emption?

(*b.*) Will the Crown claim any pre-emptive right over our tribal or common land? that is to say, those lands to be hereafter settled as set apart for the use of the people, or will the occupants be at liberty to sell or lease independently of the Crown?

No. 3.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Sir Hercules Robinson, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, December* 10, 1874.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Report of the 3rd of October,* containing an account of the progress of negotiations since your arrival at Levuka, and transmitting, with other documents, a copy of the Instrument of Cession by which the Fiji Islands were formally given over to Her Majesty.

2. I have laid your despatch before the Queen, who has read it with interest, and Her Majesty commands me to convey to you her approval of the ability, discretion, and energy with which you have conducted this transaction to a successful and satisfactory issue.

3. Writing, as I do at present, without full information as to the details of your arrangements for the temporary administration of the Government, I can, of course, only express in general terms my opinion of their apparent adequacy to meet the requirements of the case, but I feel so much confidence in your judgment, that I am satisfied that the dispositions which you have made will, when explained and laid before me in full, be found calculated to enable the more permanent administration of the Government to be entered upon with the least possible difficulty, and with all reasonable promise of success.

4. I have already expressed my thanks to your Ministers for their ready and valuable co-operation in this important matter, but I must also request you to convey to Mr. Innes, the Attorney-General of New South Wales, who accompanied you in the capacity of legal adviser, my appreciation of the able assistance which he rendered to you.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 4.

Sir Hercules Robinson, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received December 19.)

My Lord, *"Pearl," Levuka, Fiji, October* 11, 1874.

IN continuation of my despatch* sent on the 3rd instant from the Island of Taviuni, I have now the honour to report that I went from thence along the north coast of Vanua Levu, touching at Nanduri and Mathuata. Here we found that a tribal war had a few days before broken out between the rival Chiefs Ritova and Katonivere, which had resulted in loss of life and considerable destruction of property. Our arrival at the moment with Thakombau and two ships of war was opportune. Thakombau at once sent for all the parties concerned; explained to them what had taken place in Levuka and Loma-Loma, and that he was going round the group to make arrangements for the transfer of the government of the country to the Queen. He ordered both contending parties to disperse forthwith to their homes, and to take down the war fences. He also carried away with him, in the "Dido," the two Chiefs Ritova and Katonivere, with a view of investigating their conduct in Levuka, with the assistance of the other ruling Chiefs.

2. Peace having thus been restored on the Mathuata coast, we proceeded round the north-west point of Vanua Levu to Bua, where we landed, inspected a portion of this well-governed native province, and took away with us the Chief Tui Bua, to be present at the proposed gathering of all the Chiefs in Levuka, with a view to the formal transfer of the country to the British Crown.

3. On the 7th of October I returned to Levuka, and on the 10th I proceeded by appointment to the Government Buildings at Nasova, where all the Chiefs who had not previously signed the Deed of Cession attached their names and seals to the instrument, which was then executed by me, and a counterpart handed to Thakombau, to be retained by himself and the other high Chiefs as a record of the transaction.

4. I then publicly declared Fiji to be from that time forth a Possession and Dependency of the British Crown, and hoisted the British flag with the usual formalities. I

* No. 2.

inclose a minute of the proceedings, in which will be found a description of an interesting incident which occurred when Thakombau presented to me his favourite war club, for transmission to Her Majesty.

5. Upon the afternoon of the same day I issued the first "Government Gazette" of the Colony of Fiji, copies of which are herewith inclosed. It contains a Proclamation declaring Fiji to be a British Dependency, and announcing that I had assumed the temporary administration of the Government of the Islands until Her Majesty's pleasure could be made known as to the constitution of the permanent Government of the Colony. I published in the same Gazette, for general information, in both English and Fijian, copies of the Resolution adopted by the Chiefs assembled in Council, giving Fiji unreservedly to the Queen, and of the Deed of Cession which had that day been executed at Nasova.

6. In a subsequent despatch I will report to your Lordship the arrangements which I may make for the establishment of a provisional Administration, pending the notification of Her Majesty's pleasure as regards the permanent Government of these Islands.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERCULES ROBINSON.

Inclosure in No. 4.

Notes of Proceedings at a Meeting between Sir Hercules Robinson and Thakombau, and other high Chiefs of Fiji, held at Nasova on the 10th of October, 1874.

ACCORDING to previous arrangements, Sir Hercules Robinson, accompanied by Commodore Goodenough, landed at the pier at Nasova at 2·30 P.M., and immediately repaired to the Council room, where he was received by Thakombau and the other high Chiefs of Fiji. Mr. Wilkinson, the interpreter, then read the resolution of the Chiefs in Council of the 30th of September, 1874, and the translation of the instrument of cession.

The instrument of cession was then signed by the following Chiefs in addition to those who had previously signed it, namely, Roko Tui Dreketi, Nacagilevu, Ratu Kini, Ritova, Katunivere, and Matanitobua.

Sir Hercules Robinson then affixed his signature and seal to the original instrument and to a duplicate deed, which latter was handed to Thakombau for the use and future reference of himself and the Chiefs of Fiji.

Thakombau then said that he had that morning dictated to Mr. Thurston a few words which he wished to say to his Excellency, and he begged that Mr. Thurston might be allowed to interpret his sentiments upon the matter to which he desired to refer.

Mr. Thurston then said:

"Your Excellency,—Before finally ceding his country to Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, the King desires, through your Excellency, to give Her Majesty the only thing he possesses that may interest her.

"The King gives Her Majesty his old and favourite war-club, the former, and, until lately, the only known law of Fiji.

"In abandoning club law, and adopting the forms and principles of civilized societies, he laid by his old weapon and covered it with the emblems of peace. Many of his people, whole tribes, died and passed away under the old law, but hundreds of thousands still survive to learn and enjoy the newer and better state of things. The King adds only a few words. With this emblem of the past he sends his love to Her Majesty, saying that he fully confides in her and in her children who, succeeding her, shall become Kings of Fiji, to exercise a watchful control over the welfare of his children and people, and who, having survived the barbaric law and age, are now submitting themselves, under Her Majesty's rule, to civilization."

The King then handed the club to his Excellency, who informed Thakombau that he would not fail to transmit to the Queen the historic gift which he desired to present to her, and that he would at the same communicate to Her Majesty verbatim the trustful and gratifying message by which the gift was accompanied.

The meeting was then adjourned to the front of the house. Having arrived there, Sir Hercules Robinson addressed the persons there assembled round the flag-staff as follows:—

"Tui Viti, Commodore Goodenough, and gentlemen,—The legal forms for the transfer of the government of this country to the Queen have just been completed, and will be made public through the medium of the 'Gazette' in the course of a few hours. It now, therefore, only remains for me to declare Fiji to be, from this time forward, a possession and a dependency of the British Crown.

"I fervently trust that this important step will tend to develope the great natural

capabilities of these beautiful and fertile islands, and at the same time conduce largely to the contentment and happiness of all classes of the population.

"I hope, too, that past differences and disagreements will henceforth be forgotten, and that all local animosities will this day be buried at the foot of the staff on which we are now about to hoist the British flag."

The Fijian flag was then hauled down, and the Royal Standard hoisted in its stead; upon which Her Majesty's ship "Pearl" manned yards, and fired a salute of 21 guns. The small-arm men of the "Dido," and the marines of both ships (who had been previously landed) and a company of the Fijian constabulary, presented arms, and the "Pearl's" band played "God save the Queen."

The marines then fired a "feu-de-joie." Cheers having been given, first for Her Majesty the Queen, and then for Sir Hercules Robinson, His Excellency said:—

"Gentlemen, I have now to propose that you give three cheers for the Tui Viti, who has throughout these negotiations conducted himself in a manner which proves him to be worthy of the name of great chief; consulting, as he has done, not his own personal interests, but the welfare alone of his people and of his country."

The spectators then cheered vociferously. His Excellency then took leave of Thakombau, and shortly afterwards returned on board Her Majesty's ship "Pearl."

(Signed) WALTER HELY HUTCHINSON,
Attaché to the Mission.

No. 5.

Sir Hercules Robinson, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received December 19.)

My Lord, *"Pearl," Fiji, October* 11, 1874.

I HAVE the honour to report, that after the formal execution yesterday by all the Chiefs of the Deed of Cession, Thakombau stated that he desired to say a few words to me, and asked that Mr. Thurston, to whom he had that morning explained his wishes, might be allowed to interpret them. Mr. Thurston then said:—

"Your Excellency, before finally ceding his country to Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, the King desires, through your Excellency, to give to Her Majesty the only thing he possesses that may interest her.

"The King gives Her Majesty his old and favourite war club, the former, and, until lately, the only known law of Fiji.

"In abandoning club law, and adopting the forms and principles of civilized societies, he laid by his old weapon, and covered it with the emblems of peace. Many of his people, whole tribes, died and passed away under the old law, but hundreds of thousands still survive to learn and enjoy the newer and better state of things. The King adds only a few words. With this emblem of the past, he sends his love to Her Majesty, saying that he fully confides in her and her children, who, succeeding her, shall become Kings of Fiji, to exercise a watchful control over the welfare of his children and people, who, having survived the barbaric law and age, are now submitting themselves, under Her Majesty's rule, to civilization."

Thakombau then handed the club to me; and I informed him that I would not fail to transmit it to the Queen, and would at the same time convey to Her Majesty, through your Lordship, the message which he desired should accompany the gift.

I will forward the box containing the club by the first convenient opportunity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERCULES ROBINSON.

No. 6.

Sir Hercules Robinson, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received December 19.)

My Lord, *"Pearl," Levuka, Fiji, October* 16, 1874.

THE formalities for the transfer of the sovereignty of these islands to Her Majesty having been completed on the 10th instant, I proceeded at once, as authorized by your Lordship, to authorize a temporary administration, pending provision being made by Letters Patent or Order in Council for the permanent Government of the Colony. The accompanying "Fiji Gazettes," numbered 1 to 6 consecutively, will show fully in detail the various measures adopted by me for this purpose.

2. The question as to how provision could best be made for supervising the temporary administration of the Government gave me much consideration. There was no person in Fiji who had had any experience of a Crown Colony. It was clear to me, too, that much would depend upon the manner in which affairs were conducted upon the first

establishment of British rule, and that it would have been scarcely practicable for your Lordship's Department to have exercised any effectual control over the Provisional Government if I had placed it in direct communication with Downing Street. I therefore determined, as Sydney is now connected by means of regular monthly steamers with Levuka, and is at the same time in telegraphic communication with London, to retain in my own hands, for the present, a general supervision over the temporary administration of the newly-established Colony.

3. As I had no information whatever respecting the intentions of Her Majesty's Government with regard to the future disposal of the services of Mr. Layard, the Consul for Fiji and Tonga, I requested him to continue to act as Consul for Tonga, and at the same time to accept the unpaid offices of Vice-President of the Executive Council and Administrator of the Government in my absence, drawing, as heretofore, his emoluments from the Foreign Office until your Lordship had had an opportunity of determining upon the permanent establishments for Fiji, and the Foreign Office should decide as to the Tongan Consulship. This Mr. Layard at once acceded to, so that, for the present, as will be seen on a reference to the accompanying papers, the revenues of the Colony are not subjected to any charge for either the Governor or the Admistrator of the Government.

4. In like manner I requested Mr. Innes, the Attorney General of New South Wales, by whom I am accompanied, to accept a seat in the Executive Council without office, both for the benefit of the assistance which he could render me while here, and also to enable me, on my return to New South Wales, to obtain the advantage of his legal knowledge and sound judgment in all Fiji matters which may be transmitted for my decision.

5. I completed the Executive Council by the appointments, as will be seen from Gazette No. 1, of Mr. Thurston as Colonial Secretary, Mr. Horton as Treasurer, and Mr. Swanston as Secretary for Native Affairs, assigning to each a salary for the present of 400*l.* a year. These appointments appear to give general satisfaction. Mr. Thurston is certainly the fittest person in Fiji to act as Colonial Secretary. He is intimately acquainted with the circumstances and requirements of the group; he is a good Fijian scholar, and he served as Acting Consul here for some years to the entire satisfaction, I understand, of the Foreign Office. Mr. Horton is the Manager of the Fijian Banking Company, and a gentleman upon whose integrity the utmost reliance may be placed. The arrangement, too, will effect a considerable saving, as the receipts and disbursements of the Government will be made through the Bank, thus rendering unnecessary the services of more than one subordinate Treasury Officer, an Accountant. Mr. Swanston held the office of Minister for Native Affairs under the Constitutional Government of Fiji, and has the reputation of being an honest, independent man, sincerely desirous of advancing the interests of the native population of the country. Amongst these three officers I have distributed the supervision of all the administrative and judicial departments of the Government, dividing the functions in the manner which will be found specified in a notification published in the Gazette of the 13th instant, No. 2.

6. In the Judicial Department I have been enabled to make considerable reductions. The office of Chief Justice and Chancellor of the Kingdom has been allowed to lapse; and I have appointed one officer to discharge the duties of Judge of the Central Court of Fiji and Chief Magistrate of the Colony. All the offices established under this head will be found specified in the "Gazette" of the 14th instant (No. 5); and I need merely remark here that the saving on the Judicial Department amounts to over 800*l.* a year, as compared with the expenditure under that head during the *ad interim* arrangement which I found in existence on my arrival.

7. The native armed constabulary appeared to me to stand in need of immediate reorganization. Grave statements have been publicly urged against the men of this force, charging them with outrages and cruelties perpetrated upon the helpless population of the country districts, especially upon women; and I fear that too many of these charges were well founded. It was clear to me that the force should at once be considerably reduced in numbers, and placed under strict supervision and control. I accordingly determined to reduce the strength to 200 picked men—a number amply sufficient to maintain order throughout the whole group—and to place the force under the superintendence of Lieutenant Olive, of the Royal Marines, whose services were kindly placed at my disposal by Commodore Goodenough for this purpose. I inclose a copy of the correspondence which I have had with Commodore Goodenough on this subject. I may add that Lieutenant Olive appears to me to combine firmness of character with gentleness of disposition to an extent which has already endeared him to the natives, and which renders him peculiarly fitted for the delicate and responsible

position in which he is placed. The total cost of police, including rations, clothing, &c., will amount to but little more than 3,000*l.* a year.

8. The appointments necessary for the efficient administration of native affairs received my careful consideration. Eventually I determined, with the advice of the Executive Council, upon the following departmental arrangements: four European Stipendiary Magistrates have been created for the trial of European and mixed cases throughout the whole group. The districts and places at which Courts are to be held will be found specified in Schedule A, attached to Gazette No. 6 of the 15th instant. The islands were next divided into twelve provinces, over each of which a Provincial Chief styled Roko and a native Stipendiary Magistrate were appointed. These provinces were next sub-divided into eighty-two districts in charge of Bulis, each Buli being placed in the first, second, or third class, according to the number of villages under his control. By this machinery it is believed that arrangements can be made for the efficient government of the natives, under the general supervision of the Secretary for Native Affairs, without departing in any important particular from their own official customs, traditions, and boundaries. The total cost of the Department, including the salary of the Protector of Imported Polynesian Labourers, amounts to a little more than 5,800*l.* a year. I inclose a map showing the boundaries of the twelve provinces, and Schedules B, C, and D, in the Appendix to the Estimates, will furnish the names of the twelve Rokos, the twelve Native Stipendiary Magistrates, and the eighty-two Bulis, with the name of the province or district in charge of each.

9. The remaining subordinate provisional appointments, which will all be found detailed in Gazette No. 5, do not appear to me to call for any remark. The salaries have in each case been fixed at the lowest practicable amount consistent with the efficiency of the public service. The total cost of all the establishments of the Colony amounts, as will be seen by the return published in Gazette No. 6, to 13,568*l.* per annum, and the services, exclusive of establishments, to 4,334*l.*, making the total authorized expenditure for Fiji, for the year ending 10th October, 1875, at the rate of 17,902*l.* per annum.

10. Gazette No. 2 contains the Customs tariff and other dues and taxes, which, with the advice of the executive Council, I authorized the Provisional Government to collect. The former tariff was composed almost entirely of *ad valorem* duties, which here, as elsewhere, have been found to be unequal as well as demoralizing in their application. The total receipts of the Customs duties of Fiji for the year ended 30th September, 1874, amounted to 10,254*l.* I determined to substitute for this tariff the tariff lately adopted in New South Wales, and which is composed entirely of specific duties on about forty-five articles of general consumption. It is estimated that this tariff will produce in Fiji a revenue of about 15,000*l.* a-year. The tonnage dues have been abolished, and pilotage rates, light dues, and annual licenses, continued at the same rate as heretofore, the only increase being a license fee of 10*l.*, instead of 2*l.* 10*s.*, upon Polynesian immigrant vessels for each voyage, it being thought fair to make these vessels contribute to a larger extent than formerly to the expense of the supervision which it is necessary to exercise over the foreign labour traffic.

11. An entire change has been made in the system of native taxation. Heretofore the amount of the tax was uniform throughout the group, being 20*s.* for each man, and 4*s.* for each woman. There being little ready money amongst the natives, payment has been accepted in kind, and the tax collector has been accompanied by a broker whose custom it was to take over at a low valuation the agricultural produce, fishing nets, sleeping mats, axes, &c., and other articles of domestic use and convenience which the people had to part with and sacrifice to meet the demands of the Government. In some districts the people were too poor to be able to satisfy the tax even in this manner; and painful accounts have recently been published in the newspapers as to the wholesale way in which the entire male population of large districts have been removed from their homes, and their services in effect sold to such of the European planters as were willing to pay to the Government the tax, with the costs that had accrued in instituting legal proceeding for its recovery. I inclose some letters extracted from the local press upon this subject, and to which my attention was directed soon after my arrival. I particularly would invite your Lordship's perusal of a letter published in the "Fiji Times" of the 7th October, under the signature of Dr. Langham, the head of the Wesleyan Mission in Fiji. Dr. Langham called upon me and narrated to me atrocities and cruelties in connection with the Government system of raising the native taxes, for the truth of which he stated that he was prepared to vouch. These representations convinced me of the necessity of making a change in the amount of the native tax and the mode of enforcing it. I accordingly determined that women should be exempt; that the tax in

kind should not be enforced; that every male Fijian between the ages of 16 and 60 should contribute twenty days' labour upon the public works of his province, being allowed to commute his service for 6*d*., 4½*d*., or 3*d*. a-day, *i.e.*, 10*s*., 7*s*. 6*d*., or 5*s*., according to the local circumstances of the district wherein he may reside. A capitation tax of 10*s*. on each imported Polynesian labourer is also imposed, such tax to be paid quarterly by the employers.

12. I directed further that all native taxes in arrear at the date of cession should be remitted, and that all Fijians who as defaulting taxpayers had been removed from their homes and placed in service with European settlers should forthwith be liberated, the planters being compensated for any sum paid on account of the tax due by each labourer less the value of the time actually served. The notifications embodying all these regulations as regards native taxes will be found at page 9 of Gazette No. 2.

13. Gazette No. 6 publishes for general information a Return showing the estimated revenue and authorized expenditure of the Colony for the year ending 10th October, 1875. The revenue is estimated at 23,875*l*., and the authorized expenditure amounts to 17,902*l*, showing an excess of estimated revenue over authorized expenditure of 5,973*l*. I should mention, however, that the expenditure only provides for the payment of Thakombau's allowance at the reduced rate of 900*l*., which he received during the *ad interim* Consular Government, and it makes no provision for a salary for the Governor, upon both of which points I propose to address your Lordship in a subsequent despatch.

14. Gazette No. 3 contains a Proclamation making provision for the administration of criminal and civil justice in Fiji, pending the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure as regards the permanent laws of the Colony.

15. Gazette No. 4 provides for the regulation and control of the hiring and service of Polynesian immigrants, and the carrying of such immigrants on board vessels. It also notifies the appointment of twenty gentlemen to be Justices of the Peace for the Colony of Fiji.

16. With a view to avoid further complications of the land question by persons speculating in doubtful titles of both Europeans and natives, I caused a notification to be inserted in the Gazette intimating that no sale, transfer, or assignment of land, or of any interest therein made subsequent to the date of cession, will be recognized by the Government pending the settlement of existing titles to land. This notification will be found at page 9 of Gazette No. 2.

17. Having thus completed all the arrangements necessary for the establishment of a Provisional Government, I propose leaving Fiji this afternoon for Sydney, and hope to arrive there nearly a week in advance of the date originally contemplated for my return.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERCULES ROBINSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 6.

The "Fiji Government Gazette" of October 10, 1874.

Fiji, to wit.

(Signed) HERCULES ROBINSON, *Governor.*

Proclamation by his Excellency Sir Hercules George Robert Robinson, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and St. George, Governor, Commander-in-chief, and Vice-Admiral of the Colony of New South Wales and its Dependencies, Governor of Norfolk Island, and provisionally Governor of Fiji.

WHEREAS by an instrument of Cession bearing date the 10th of October, A.D. 1874, duly executed under their respective hands and seals, Thakombau, styled Tui Viti and Vuni Valu, and the other high Chiefs of Fiji, for themselves and their respective tribes, have voluntarily and unconditionally ceded to Her Most Gracious Majesty Victoria, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith, &c., &c., &c., possession of and full sovereignty and dominion over the Fijian group of Islands, and over the inhabitants thereof; And whereas I,

Sir Hercules George Robert Robinson, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor, Commander-in-chief, and Vice-Admiral of the Colony of New South Wales and its Dependencies, and Governor of Norfold Island, in pursuance of the powers and authority in me vested, have, in the name and on behalf of Her Majesty, accepted such Cession:—

Now I, the said Hercules George Robert Robinson, in pursuance of the said Cession, and in pursuance and by virtue of the powers and authority in me vested, do hereby proclaim the whole of the group of Islands in the South Pacific Ocean known as the Fijis, and lying between the parallels of latitude of fifteen degrees south, and twenty-two degrees south of the Equator, and between the meridians of longitude of one hundred and seventy-seven degrees west, and one hundred and seventy-five degrees east of the meridian of Greenwich, to be from this time forth a possession and dependency of the British Crown.

And I do hereby further proclaim that I have, by virtue and in pursuance of the powers and authority in me vested, this day assumed, in the name and on behalf of Her Majesty, the temporary Administration of the Government of the said Islands, until the pleasure of Her Majesty shall be made known as regards the constitution and permanent Government of the Colony.

Given under my hand and seal, at Nasova, this tenth day of October, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and seventy-four, and in the thirty-eighth year of Her Majesty's reign.

God save the Queen!

Nasova, Fiji, October 10, 1874.

His Excellency the Governor directs the publication, for general information of the following documents:—

(I.)

(Translation.)

Resolution of Thakombau, Tui Viti, and Vunivalu, and other high Chiefs of Fiji, in Council assembled, handed by them to his Excellency Sir Hercules George Robert Robinson, at an interview held at Nasova, on Wednesday, September 30, 1874:—

Unto Her Majesty Queen of Great Britain,

WE, King of Fiji, together with other high Chiefs of Fiji, hereby give our country, Fiji, unreservedly to Her Britannic Majesty, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland; and we trust and repose fully in her that she will rule Fiji justly and affectionately, that we may continue to live in peace and prosperity.

And we, desiring these Conferences may terminate well and satisfactorily, request Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador unto us, Sir Hercules George Robert Robinson, will confer with our advisers who have our confidence in these matters.

(Signed) CAKOBAU R.

(Signed) D. Wilkinson, *Chief Interpreter.*

(II.)

Instrument of Cession of the Islands of Fiji by Thakombau, styled Tui Viti and Vunivalu, and by the other high Chiefs of the said Islands, to Her Most Gracious Majesty Victoria, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith, &c., &c., &c.

WHEREAS divers subjects of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland have from time to time settled in the Fijian group of Islands, and have acquired property or certain pecuniary interests therein; And whereas the Fijian Chief Thakombau, styled Tui Viti and Vunivalu, and other high Chiefs of the said Islands, are desirous of securing the promotion of civilization and Christianity, and of increasing trade and industry within the said Islands; And whereas it is obviously desirable in the interests as well of the

native as of the white population that order and good government should be established therein; And whereas the said Tui Viti and other high Chiefs have conjointly and severally requested Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland aforesaid to undertake the government of the said Islands henceforth; And whereas, in order to the establishment of British government within the said Islands, the said Tui Viti and other the several high Chiefs thereof, for themselves and their respective tribes, have agreed to cede the possession of and the dominion and sovereignty over the whole of the said Islands, and over the inhabitants thereof, and have requested Her said Majesty to accept such cession; which cession the said Tui Viti and other high Chiefs, relying upon the justice and generosity of Her said Majesty, have determined to tender unconditionally, and which cession, on the part of the said Tui Viti and other high Chiefs is witnessed by the execution of these presents, and by the formal surrender of the said territory to Her said Majesty; And whereas his Excellency Sir Hercules George Robert Robinson, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor, Commander-in-chief, and Vice-Admiral of the British Colony of New South Wales and its Dependencies, and Governor of Norfolk Island, hath been authorized and deputed by Her said Majesty to accept on her behalf the said cession:

Now these presents witness,

1. That the possession of and full sovereignty and dominion over the whole of the group of Islands in the South Pacific Ocean known as the Fijis (and lying between the parallels of latitude of fifteen degees south, and twenty-two degrees south of the Equator, and between the meridian of longitude of one hundred and seventy-seven degrees west, and one hundred and seventy-five degrees east of the meridian of Greenwich), and over the inhabitants thereof, and of and over all ports, harbours, havens, roadsteads, rivers, estuaries, and other waters, and all reefs and foreshores within or adjacent thereto, are hereby ceded to and accepted on behalf of Her said Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, her heirs and successors, to the intent that from this time forth the said Islands, and the waters, reefs, and other places as aforesaid, lying within or adjacent thereto, may be annexed to and be a possession and dependency of the British Crown.

2. That the form or constitution of Government, the means of the maintenance thereof, and the laws and regulations to be administered within the said islands, shall be such as Her Majesty shall prescribe and determine.

3. That, pending the making by Her Majesty as aforesaid, of some more permanent provision for the Government of the said islands, His Excellency Sir Hercules George Robert Robinson, in pursuance of the powers in him vested, and with the consent and at the request of the said Tui Viti and other high Chiefs, the ceding parties hereto, shall establish such temporary or provisional Government as to him shall seem meet.

4. That the absolute proprietorship of all lands, not shown to be now alienated, so as to have become *bonâ fide* the property of Europeans or other foreigners, or not now in the actual use or occupation of some Chief or tribe, or not actually required for the probable future support and maintenance of some Chief or tribe, shall be and is hereby declared to be vested in Her said Majesty, her heirs and successors.

5. That Her Majesty shall have power, whenever it shall be deemed necessary for public purposes, to take any lands upon payment to the proprietor of a reasonable sum by way of compensation for the deprivation thereof.

6. That all the existing public buildings, houses, and offices, all enclosures and other pieces or parcels of land now set apart, or being used for public purposes, and all stores, fittings, and other articles now being used in connection with such purposes, are hereby assigned, transferred, and made over to Her said Majesty.

7. That, on behalf of Her Majesty, His Excellency Sir Hercules George Robert Robinson promises (1), That the rights and interests of the said Tui Viti and other high Chiefs, the ceding parties hereto, shall be recognized, so far as is consistent with British sovereignty and colonial form of government. (2.) That all questions of financial liabilities and engagements shall be scrutinised, and dealt with upon principles of justice and sound public policy. (3.) That all claims to titles of land, by whomsoever preferred, and all claims to pensions or allowances, whether on the part of the said Tui Viti and other high Chiefs, or of persons now holding office under them or any of them, shall in due course be fully investigated and equitably adjusted.

In witness whereof, the whole of the contents of this instrument of cession having been, previously to the execution of the same, interpreted and explained to the ceding parties hereto, by David Wilkinson, Esq., the interpreter nominated by the said Tui Viti and the other high Chiefs, and accepted as such interpreter by the said Sir Hercules

George Robert Robinson, the respective parties hereto have hereunto set their hands and seals.

Done at Levuka, this 10th day of October, in the year of our Lord 1874.

(Signed) (L.S.) CAKOBAU, R. *Tui Viti and Vunivalu.*
(L.S.) MAAFU.
(L.S.) TUI CAKAU.
(L.S.) RATU EPELI.
(L.S.) VAKAWALETABUA, TUI BUA.
(L.S.) SAVENAKA.
(L.S.) ISIKELI.
(L.S.) ROKO TUI DREKETI.
(L.S.) NACAGILEVU.
(L.S.) RATU KINI.
(L.S.) RITOVA.
(L.S.) KATUNIVERE.
(L.S.) MATANITOBUA.

(Signed) (L.S.) HERCULES ROBINSON.

I hereby certify that, prior to the execution of the above instrument of cession, which execution I do hereby attest, I fully and faithfully interpreted and explained to the ceding parties hereto, the whole of the contents of the said document (the several interlineations on page , line , and on page , line of the manuscript having first been made), and that such contents were fully understood and assented to by the said ceding parties. Prior to the execution of the said instrument of cession, I wrote out an interpretation of the same in the Fijian language, which interpretation I read to the several Chiefs, who one and all approved thereof. A copy of such interpretation is hereto annexed, marked (A).*

Dated this 10th day of October, A.D. 1874.

(Signed) D. WILKINSON, *Chief Interpreter.*

Nasova, Fiji, October 10, 1874.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to make the following appointments, with a view to the temporary carrying on of the administration of the Government of the Colony of Fiji until the pleasure of Her Majesty shall be made known as regards the Constitution and permanent Government of the Colony:—

Edgar Leopold Layard, Esq., the Honourable Joseph George Long Innes, Esq., John Bates Thurston, Esq., Thomas Horton Esq., and Robert Sherson Swanston, Esq., to be members of the Executive Council of the Colony.

(Signed) HERCULES ROBINSON, *Governor.*

Nasova, Fiji, October 10, 1874.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to make the following provisional appointments, pending the notification of Her Majesty's pleasure as aforesaid:—

The Honourable Edgar Leopold Layard, Esq., to be Vice-President of the Executive Council and Administrator of the Government in the absence of the Governor.

The Honourable John Bates Thurston, Esq., to be Colonial Secretary and Auditor-General.

The Honourable Thomas Horton, Esq., to be Colonial Treasurer; and

The Honourable Robert Sherson Swanston, Esq., to be Secretary for Native Affairs and Registrar-General.

By his Excellency's command,

(Signed) JOHN B. THURSTON, *Colonial Secretary.*

Nasova, Fiji, October 10, 1874.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to make the following provisional appointments, pending the notification of Her Majesty's pleasure as aforesaid:—

The Honourable Walter Francis Hely-Hutchinson, to be his Excellency's Private Secretary for the transaction of the business of Fiji;

* Not printed, being in the Fijian language.

David Wilkinson, Esq., to be Chief Interpreter to the Government;
Lieutenant Henry Olive, Royal Marine Light Infantry, to be Superintendent of Police.

By his Excellency's command,
(Signed) JOHN B. THURSTON, *Colonial Secretary.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 6.

The "Fiji Government Gazette" of October 13, 1874.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Fiji, October 12, 1874.

HIS Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to direct the establishment of the following Tariff, Dues, Fees, and Taxes:—

TARIFF.

	s.	d.
On all kinds of spirits imported into the Colony, the strength of which can be ascertained by Syke's hydrometer, the proof gallon	10	0
On all spirits and spiritous compounds imported into the Colony, the strength of which cannot be ascertained by Syke's hydrometer, the liquid gallon	10	0
Methylated spirits, per gallon	2	0
Wines, sparkling, per gallon	6	0
Wines, other kinds, per gallon	4	0
Sarsaparilla, if containing not more than 25 per cent. of proof spirits, per liquid gallon	4	0
Beer, ale, porter, spruce, and other beers in wood or jar, per gallon	0	6
Ditto, in bottles, per gallon	0	9
Cigars, per lb.	5	0
Snuff, per lb.	2	0
Tobacco, manufactured, per lb.	2	0
Ditto, unmanufactured, per lb.	1	0
Ditto, for sheepwash, per lb.	0	3
Opium, including all goods, wares, and merchandise mixed or saturated with opium, or with any preparation or solution thereof, or steeped therein, per lb.	10	0
Coffee, chicory, cocoa, and chocolate, per lb.	0	3
Tea, per lb.	0	3
Sugar, raw, per cwt.	5	0
Ditto, refined, per cwt.	6	8
Sugar, molasses, aad treacle, per cwt.	3	4
Malt, per bushel	0	6
Hops, per lb.	0	3
Comfits, confectionary, and succades, per lb.	0	1½
Cordage and rope, per ton	40	0
Paints, per ton	40	0
Nails, per ton	40	0
Galvanized iron, in bars, sheets, or bundles, or corrugated, per ton	40	0
Galvanized manufactures, per cwt.	3	0
Vinegar, per gallon	0	6

	s.	d.
Turpentine, per gallon	1	0
Varnish, per gallon	2	0
Sago, ginger, jams, jellies, nuts of all kinds (except cocoanuts), preserves, biscuits, mustard, blue, dates, starch, maizena, and cornflower, per lb.	0	1
Dried, preserved, and salt fish, per lb.	0	1
Powder, blasting, per lb.	0	1
Powder, sporting, per lb.	0	3
Shot, per cwt.	5	0
Lead, per cwt.	5	0
Caps, percussion, per 1,000	1	0
Firearms, each	1	0
Woolpacks, each	0	3
Bags and sacks, per dozen	1	0
Gunny bags, per dozen	0	6
Cheese, dried fruits, pepper, spices, bacon, and hams, per lb.	0	2
Candles, per lb.	0	1
Soap, per lb.	0	0½
Cement, per barrel	2	0
Bottled fruits (quarts), per dozen	2	0
Ditto (pints and smaller packages), per dozen	1	0
Rice, per ton	60	0
Iron wire, per ton	20	0
Salt and saltpetre, per ton	20	0
Soda crystals, per ton	20	0
Timber (dressed), per 100 feet superficial	2	0
Timber (rough and undressed), per 100 feet superficial	1	0
Shingles, per 1,000	2	0
Oilman's stores, sauces and pickles (quarts), per dozen	1	0
Ditto (in pints and smaller quantities), per dozen	0	6
Paper (writing and fancy), per lb.	0	1
Ditto (brown and wrapping), per cwt.	3	4
Oils of all kinds (except animal, sperm, black, and cocoanut), per gallon	0	6
Doors, sashes and shutters, each	1	0

SHIPPING DUES.

PILOTAGE RATES.

	£	s.	d.
For any vessel drawing 7 feet or under	2	0	0
„ „ 8 and under 9 feet	2	5	0
„ „ 9 „ 10 „	2	10	0
„ „ 10 „ 11 „	3	0	0
„ „ 11 „ 12 „	3	10	0
„ „ 12 „ 13 „	4	0	0
„ „ 13 „ 14 „	4	10	0
„ „ 14 „ 15 „	5	0	0
„ „ 15 „ 16 „	5	10	0
„ „ 16 „ 17 „	6	0	0
„ „ 17 „ 18 „	6	10	0
„ „ 18 „ 19 „	7	0	0
„ „ 19 „ 20 „	7	10	0
For any vessel drawing 20 and under 21 feet	8	0	0
„ „ 21 „ 22 „	8	10	0
„ „ 22 „ 23 „	9	0	0
„ „ 23 „ 24 „	10	0	0

LIGHT DUES.

Sailing vessels from any ports beyond the Australian Colonies, Polynesian Group, or New Zealand (inwards only), 6*d.* per ton.

Steam vessels other than mail steamers, from ports beyond the Colony, and sailing vessels from the Australian Colonies, New Zealand, and Polynesian Group, 3*d.* per ton.

Steam vessels and sailing vessels coastwise, 2*d.* per ton.

Exemption from pilot and light dues is granted to vessels put back in distress, or from stress of weather, and to ocean mail steamers, mission vessels, and whalers, unless a pilot has actually been employed and required.

COASTING LICENSES.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
For every boat or vessel under 10 tons ..	2	0	0
For every additional ton up to 20 register the further sum of 4*s.* per ton; and for every additional ton above 20 tons the further sum of 2*s.* per ton.			

LICENSES, ANNUAL.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Wholesale license to vend spirituous liquors	10	0	0
Retail (town)	25	0	0
Ditto (country)	10	0	0
Auctioneer's license	15	0	0
Lighter or boat for the purpose of carrying goods or passengers	2	0	0
Polynesian immigrant vessels license per return voyage	10	0	0

POSTAGE ON LETTERS, BOOKS, NEWSPAPERS, &c.

LETTERS.

I.—*Town Letters.*

	s.	*d.*
For delivery within the limits of Levuka—		
Not exceeding ½ oz.	0	1
Exceeding ½ oz., but not exceeding 1 oz. ..	0	2
And so on, increasing 1*d.* for every additional ½ oz. or fraction of ½ oz.		

II.—*Inland Letters.*

Not exceeding ½ oz.	0	2
Exceeding ½ oz., but not exceeding 1 oz. ..	0	4
And so on, increasing 2*d.* for every additional ½ oz. or fraction of ½ oz.		

III.—*Intercolonial Letters.*

New Zealand .. / Queensland .. / South Australia .. / Tasmania .. / Victoria .. / Western Australia — per ½ oz.	0	2

IV.—*Letters to British Colonies and Foreign Countries.*

(Excepting Intercolonial.)

Not exceeding ½ oz.	0	6
Exceeding ½ oz., but not exceeding 1 oz. ..	1	0
And so on, increasing 6*d.* for every additional ½ oz. or fraction of ½ oz.		

V.—*Letters to the United Kingdom.*

Viâ San Francisco—		
Not exceeding ½ oz.	0	6
Exceeding ½ oz., but not exceeding 1 oz. ..	1	0
Every additional ½ oz. or fraction thereof ..	0	6
Viâ Torres Straits and Southampton—		
Not exceeding ½ oz.	0	6
Exceeding ½ oz., but not exceeding 1 oz. ..	1	0
Every additional ½ oz. or fraction thereof ..	0	6
Viâ Torres Straits and Brindisi—		
Not exceeding ½ oz.	0	9
Exceeding ½ oz., but not exceeding 1 oz. ..	1	6
Every additional ½ oz. or fraction thereof ..	0	9
Viâ Galle and Southampton—		
Not exceeding ½ oz.	0	7
Exceeding ½ oz., but not exceeding 1 oz. ..	1	1
Every additional ½ oz. or fraction thereof ..	0	6
Viâ Galle and Brindisi—		
Not exceeding ½ oz.	0	10
Exceeding ½ oz., but not exceeding 1 oz. ..	1	7
Every additional ½ oz. or fraction thereof ..	0	9

Native Taxes.

Every male Fijian between the ages of 16 and 60, excepting those specially exempted, shall be taxed or assessed in personal service at the rate of twenty days in each year; provided always that such service may be commuted by cash payments calculated at the rates of sixpence, fourpence-halfpenny, and threepence per diem, in accordance with the local circumstances of the districts wherein they reside, and as the same shall be hereafter settled and determined by his Excellency the Governor in Council. And for every male alien Polynesian agricultural or other labourer, an annual capitation tax of ten shillings, to be paid quarterly through the employer of such labourer, the employer being held to be responsible for such payment.

His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the executive Council, has been pleased to direct that all native taxes in arrear or unpaid on the 10th of October, 1874, be, and the same are, hereby remitted.

By his Excellency's command,

(Signed) JOHN B. THURSTON, *Colonial Secretary.*

Sales, &c., of Land.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Fiji, October 12, 1874.

His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has directed it to be notified, for general information, that no sale, transfer, or assignment of land, or of any interest therein, after the date of the 10th of October instant, will be

recognized until the decision of Her Majesty shall be known touching the settlement of existing titles to land.

By his Excellency's command,
(Signed) JOHN B. THURSTON, *Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, Fiji, October 12, 1874.

His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to direct the liberation and removal of any and all Fijians who, as defaulting taxpayers, have been removed from their homes and placed in service with European settlers.

The person from whose service such natives will be removed will be compensated by the Government for any sum of money he may prove to have paid on account of the tax due by each labourer as aforesaid, less the value of the time actually served; provided always, that any such labourer may, if so disposed, complete the term of his engagement.

By his Excellency's command,
(Signed) JOHN B. THURSTON, *Colonial Secretary.*

Executive Administration.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Levuka, October 13, 1874.

His Excellency the Governor, by and with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to direct, with a view to the efficient supervision of the public business, the following distribution of administrative functions:—

The Administrator of the Government, in the absence of the Governor, will exercise a general supervision over every Department of the Executive Administration.

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary will be the organ of communication between all Departments and the Administrator, as well as between the public and the Head of the Government. He will have the custody of the archives, and of the correspondence of the Government. He will audit the public accounts, and, in addition to his general duties, exercise special supervision over the following Departments:—

Judicial, Police and Gaols, Postal, Public Works, and Survey.

The Honourable the Colonial Treasurer will have charge of the finances and accounts of the Government. He will also exercise special supervision over the Customs and Harbour Departments.

The Honourable the Secretary for Native Affairs and Registrar-General will supervise the Provincial Chiefs and Provincial Stipendiary Magistrates, and will exercise a general control over every Department of native affairs. He will also have charge of all matters appertaining to imported native labourers.

By his Excellency's command,
(Signed) JOHN B. THURSTON, *Colonial Secretary.*

Inclosure 3 in No. 6.

The "Fiji Government Gazette" of October 14, 1874.

Fiji, to wit.

(Signed) HERCULES ROBINSON, *Governor.*

Proclamation by Sir Hercules George Robert Robinson, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor, Commander-in-chief, and Vice-Admiral of the Colony of New South Wales and its Dependencies, Governor of Norfolk Island, and, provisionally, Governor of the Colony of Fiji.

WHEREAS it is necessary that provision should be made for the Administration of Justice in the Colony of Fiji, pending the notification of Her Majesty's pleasure as regards the Constitution and permanent Laws of the said Colony: Now, therefore, I, Sir Hercules George Robert Robinson, the Governor aforesaid, do hereby by and with the advice of the Executive Council direct and proclaim that, pending the notification of Her Majesty's pleasure as aforesaid:—

Laws—Adoption of Statutes of New South Wales—Mode of Adoption.

1. All laws, Acts, or statutes now in force within the Colony of New South Wales not expressly excepted by a Proclamation of this Colony from affecting the Government of, or administration of, Justice within this Colony, are hereby adopted as the Laws and Ordinances of this Colony, so far as the same shall be applicable to the circumstances of this Colony and not repugnant to, or inconsistent with, any Law or Proclamation now in force in this Colony, or that may hereafter be made or promulgated. This and all other Proclamations within the Colony of Fiji shall take effect from the date of the publication thereof, and any reference to persons, places, or subjects, in all statutes hereby adopted shall be taken as referring to corresponding or analogous persons, places, or subjects in this Colony.

Administration of Justice—Decisions of Court to be governed by Laws of New South Wales.

2. That whenever any Court, Judge, or Justice of the Peace, is called upon to adjudicate or decide, or to make any order or rule with regard to any matter or thing, and no provision is made by any Proclamation, Ordinance or otherwise, for the settlement or disposal thereof, then and in every such case the Legislative Enactments of the Colony of New South Wales having reference to such matter or thing, or to any matter or thing similar or analogous thereto shall, so far as the same can be applied to the circumstances of this Colony, regulate and govern the decision and settlement of such matter or thing.

Excepted Statutes.

3. That the provisions of the Constitution Acts, the Common Law Procedure Acts and other Acts establishing or regulating the practice or business of the Supreme Court of the said Colony of New South Wales, and appeals therefrom, shall not affect the proceedings of the Courts of this Colony; and further, the provisions of the Land Acts, Stamp Acts, Municipalities Acts, Church and Clergy Acts, School Acts, Distillation Acts, and any Acts of merely local application shall not have effect in this Colony.

Limitation.

4. That no proceeding or suit shall be brought or instituted in any Court in this Colony to recover any sum of money on any cause of action accrued prior to the first of January one thousand eight hundred and seventy-one.

Courts—Establishment of Court—Style and Constitution of Court.

5. That a Court of Justice shall be established at Levuka to be called the "Central Court of Fiji," and such Court shall be a Court of record and shall possess criminal and civil jurisdiction as hereinafter defined, and shall be presided over by one European and one native Judge, provided that such European Judge may hold and conduct such Court without the presence or aid of such native Judge.

Criminal Jurisdiction.

6. The Central Court shall, in its criminal jurisdiction, have cognizance and jurisdiction of and over all crimes and offences against the law. Provided that in cases punishable by death the carrying out of any capital sentence shall not take place without the sanction obtained under the hand and seal of His Excellency the Governor, who shall have power to commute any such sentence and to substitute therefore such term of imprisonment with or without hard labour, as to him shall seem meet.

Judges to make Rules of Court.

7. The Judges of the Central Court may from time make rules for the conduct of the business therein, the scale or scales of fees to be charged, the payment of costs to attornies or counsel, and for all other matters of practice or procedure not herein provided for.

Limit of Civil Jurisdiction—No Jurisdiction in questions of Title to Land.

8. The Central Court shall in civil cases have the like jurisdiction as the District Courts of the Colony of New South Wales, except only that such jurisdiction shall extend to all causes in which the sum claimed does not exceed three hundred pounds, including

actions for seduction and breach of promise of marriage; and further, that the European Judge of such Court shall have power to appoint persons as Commissioners of Affidavits, with the like powers as such officers have by the laws of New South Wales, and to grant probate of wills and letters of administration, and to issue writs or orders of prohibition and mandamus in like manner as the Supreme Court of the Colony of New South Wales according to the law now in force in that Colony, and in all cases the Central Court shall have the power to exercise an equitable jurisdiction over the subject matter of any cause or proceeding not involving any question of title to land, and the provisions of the District Court Acts of New South Wales 22 Victoria, Number 18, and 22 Victoria, Number 25, shall be taken to regulate the proceedings and practice of the Central Court, and are hereby adopted as a law of the Colony of Fiji, with the exceptions and alterations as provided in this Proclamation, and excepting such provisions of the said Acts as are repugnant to the provisions of this Proclamation, and where reference is made in such Act to the Court of Quarter Sessions, such Court shall be taken to be the Central Court in its criminal jurisdiction.

Business of Courts—Division of Sittings into Criminal and Civil—Time of Sittings.

9. The Central Court shall sit in Levuka on the first of every month, except the months of March, July, and December, for the disposal of civil suits, and on the first of the months of March, July, and December respectively for the disposal of all charges of a criminal nature, and such Court shall continue to sit until the business of such Court is disposed of.

Judges not to Practice.

10. No Judge of such Court shall act or practice as attorney or counsel in any Court in the Colony of Fiji.

Sittings of the Court—What constitutes Court.—Judges differing.

11. The Central Court shall sit on the first of each and every month, and no Court shall be held without the presence of the European Judge thereof, and in the case of two Judges sitting together and there being a difference of opinion between such Judges, then the opinion of the European Judge shall prevail and be the decision of the Court.

Officers of Court—Crown Prosecutor, Duties and Appointment of.

12. There shall be an officer appointed to be the Crown Prosecutor and Legal Adviser to the Government, which officer shall be styled the Crown Prosecutor, and shall hold office during the pleasure of his Excellency the Governor, and shall be invested within the Colony of Fiji with like powers, and shall perform within the said Colony like duties as are vested in and devolving upon Her Majesty's Attorney-General in the Colony of New South Wales, so far as the exercise of such powers and the performance of such duties shall be applicable to the circumstances of the Colony of Fiji. Any attorney or counsel of the Central Court commissioned in that behalf by the Governor or Administrator of the Government may, in the event of the death, absence, or incapacity of the Crown Prosecutor, file informations and prosecute for offences in the same manner as the Crown Prosecutor.

Sheriff, appointment and Duties of.

13. There shall be appointed an officer to be called the Sheriff, who shall hold office during the pleasure of his Excellency the Governor, and whose duty it shall be to execute and give effect to all orders, decrees, judgments, and directions of the Central Court, or of the European Judge thereof, to be lodged with such Sheriff for that purpose, and he shall be responsible for any consequences ensuing from any negligence or misfeasance on the part of such Sheriff or his deputy.

Enrolment of Attorneys and Counsel.

14. The Judges of the Central Court may from time to time enrol such persons as they deem qualified to act as attorneys or counsel therein, and unless so enrolled no person shall be admitted to audience except in his own cause.

Right of Audience of Attorneys and Counsel.

15. Any attorney or counsel of the Central Court shall be entitled to appear in any Court in the Colony.

Advocates to be Officers of Court—Power of Court to Punish.

16. Any attorney or counsel of the Central Court shall be deemed to be an officer of such Court, and as such shall be subject to be suspended from practice or disenrolled by such Court after a rule served on such attorney or counsel calling upon him to show cause against such suspension or disenrolment, provided always that the Court may at any time annul such suspension or disenrolment on good cause shown.

Registrar, Duties of—To act as Sheriff.

17. There shall be appointed an officer, who shall be under the order and direction of the European Judge, and shall have the care and custody of the seal and of all records and proceedings of the Court, and such officer shall be designated the Registrar of the Central Court, and shall also act as Sheriff of the Colony, and hold office during the pleasure of his Excellency the Governor.

Imprisonment for Debt—Power of Courts to Imprison for Debt—Limitation of Imprisonment for Debt, and in what cases to be imposed.

18. All persons and property within the Colony shall be subject to the laws thereof, but no person shall be imprisoned for debt except under a writ of *Capias ad Respondendum*, and no such writ shall issue except upon proof by affidavit that the person sought to be imprisoned is about to leave the Colony, and that he is indebted to the person demanding the writ in a sum exceeding twenty pounds, and that a summons has been issued for the recovery of such sum. In case any person has obtained a judgment for a sum exceeding five pounds, it shall be lawful for such judgment creditor, upon affidavit of the fact of such judgment, to apply for and obtain a summons, calling on the judgment debtor to show cause why the amount of such judgment debt should not be satisfied; and if the European Judge or the Court shall consider that such judgment debtor has fraudulently made away with or disposed of property for the purpose of evading such judgment, then the Court or such Judge may order the judgment debtor to be imprisoned in default of paying such judgment debt and costs within a reasonable time for a term not exceeding three months. Provided that the Court or the European Judge thereof shall, in addition to the powers hereinbefore conferred, possess like powers of issuing a writ of *Capias ad Satisfaciendum* as are possessed by the several district Courts or the respective Judges thereof within the Colony of New South Wales under the Act of the Parliament of such Colony, 22 Vict., No. 18.

Arbitration—Power of Court or European Judge to refer to Arbitrators—Appointment of Arbitrators—Making Award a rule of Court—Power of Court to refer Award back.

19. The Central Court or the European Judge thereof may at discretion, in all suits or causes involving complicated accounts, order the same to be referred to a single Arbitrator, or to one or more Arbitrators and an Umpire, in such manner and on such terms as to such Court or Judge shall seem fit, and may nominate the Arbitrator or Arbitrators and their Umpire and appoint another or other in his or their stead, and refer back any matters for reconsideration; and the order of such Arbitrator, Arbitrators, or Umpire may, on the motion of either party, be made a rule of Court, having the same effect as a judgment of such Court; and the payment of the amount awarded, and the fees directed by the Court or European Judge to be paid to the Arbitrator, Arbitrators, or Umpire, may be recovered in the same manner as any ordinary judgment debt.

Criminal Prosecutions, how to be commenced.

20. No person shall be put on his trial for any indictable offence except after commitment by a Justice of the Peace or a Coroner, or upon the information of the Crown prosecutor, or by the order of the Court or the European Judge thereof.

Preliminary proceedings in Criminal Cases.

21. Every person arrested for or charged with any alleged crime or offence shall be taken before the nearest Court of Petty Sessions at its next sitting, and such Court may

remand the accused for any time not exceeding eight days at each remand, and in the whole not exceeding three months, and may also if expedient remand the accused to any other Court of Petty Sessions in the Colony.

Absent Plaintiff—Security for Costs.

22. In all civil proceedings brought in the Central Court of this Colony by a person absent therefrom at the time of bringing such suit, the Judge before hearing the same may, if he think fit, make an order that security for costs shall in every such case be given by or on behalf of any such absent plaintiff.

Juries—Criminal Prosecutions—Trial by Jury.

23. That all crimes and offences prosecuted in the Central Court shall be tried by a jury of seven persons, whose verdict shall be unanimous; and if in any case a jury shall have deliberated thereon for six hours or upwards, and they shall not concur in their verdict, such jury may, in the discretion of the Judge, be discharged, and the case may be again tried at the same or any subsequent sittings as the Court or presiding Judge may direct. Provided always that upon the trial of any native Fijian only the person to be tried may elect to be tried by a jury of native Fijians.

Jury in Criminal Cases—Right of Challenge.

24. That the Registrar of the Central Court or the Deputy-Registrar (and in case of necessity the European Judge may appoint a Deputy-Registrar) shall in all criminal cases summon not less than twenty-four persons duly qualified as jurors; and any prisoner or person to be placed on his trial shall have a peremptory challenge as to four of any jury so summoned, and a challenge for cause shown as to so many of such jurors as to the Court or presiding Judge shall seem fit, and the Crown's right of challenge shall be as it is in the Colony of New South Wales.

Jury in Civil Cases.

25. In all civil cases in which amount in dispute does not exceed thirty pounds, the Court or European Judge thereof shall decide such matter, and when the sum in dispute shall exceed thirty pounds, then the plaintiff or defendant may require a jury of persons, not being coloured natives of Polynesia, to be summoned as hereinafter provided for the determination of such matter; and such jury shall consist of four persons, and the decision of three-fourths of such jury shall be received as the verdict of such jury in all cases where such jury shall not be unanimous: Provided always that if any native subject is a plaintiff or defendant in a civil suit, such suit shall be adjudicated upon by the Court only.

Striking Jury in Civil Cases.

26. That in all civil cases to be tried by a jury the names of eight jurors in attendance shall be called, such names being drawn from a box by lot, and the plaintiff and defendant respectively shall from such eight names strike out two, and the case shall then be tried by the remaining four. When either plaintiff or defendant shall be absent, the officer of the Court shall strike two of the names of jurors for such absent party.

Qualification and Remuneration of Jurors.

27. That every person between the age of twenty-one and sixty years, and who is in possession of his physical faculties, and has not been convicted of any felony, shall be liable to serve upon any jury, and the remuneration of such jurymen shall be six shillings for each day they serve in civil cases, and such fees shall be paid by the plaintiff each day before the hearing or continuation of such case to be costs in the cause; and in criminal prosecutions the fees of the jury shall be four shillings a day, to be paid by the Crown to such jury for each day they attend when called or serve.

Jury Lists, Preparation of—Notice to Jurors—Penalty for Disobedience of Summonses.

28. That the Registrar shall prepare a list of qualified jurors alphabetically arranged, who shall be summoned in rotation as occasion shall require, and shall give four days' notice to persons residing or being in Ovalau, and fourteen days' notice to person residing

or being elsewhere; and any person neglecting to obey the said summons shall be liable to a penalty to be imposed by the Court or presiding Judge not exceeding ten pounds, to be recovered by levy and distress, and in default thereof imprisonment may be awarded not exceeding one month; and such fine or imprisonment may be remitted or reduced by the Court or Judge presiding.

Courts of Petty Sessions.

29. Courts of Petty Sessions shall be established in such parts of the Colony as his Excellency the Governor or the Administrator of the Government shall direct, to be presided over by Justices of the Peace to be appointed by his Excellency; and the jurisdiction, practice, and procedure of such Courts of Petty Sessions shall in all matters be governed by the several "Justices' Acts" or other acts providing for such matters now in force in the Colony of New South Wales, so far as the same shall be applicable to the circumstances of this Colony. The European Judge of the Central Court shall be a Justice of the Peace, and as such Justice shall be the Chief Police Magistrate of the Colony. The Act 10 Vict., No. 10 of the Colony of New South Wales, shall not apply to any Court of Petty Sessions within the Island of Ovalau.

Power of Justices in Petty Sessions to state Case.

30. Any Justice or Justices of the Peace presiding at any inquiry of a summary nature may reserve his or their decision, and may state a case for the opinion of the Central Court or of the European Judge thereof, and the decision of the Court or of the said Judge on such point shall be conclusive.

Evidence—Power to administer Oaths and summon Witnesses, and to punish for contempt.

31. The Central Court shall have power to compel the giving of evidence on oath or affirmation by persons within the Court or the precincts thereof, and to summon witnesses, and any person disobeying the summons or order of the Court or of a Judge thereof, or in any way hindering or obstructing the business of such Court, shall be guilty of contempt of Court, and may be imprisoned for any period not exceeding three months, or be mulct in a sum not exceeding fifty pounds: provided always that the Court or the European Judge may remit such fine or any part thereof, or mitigate the term of imprisonment so imposed at the discretion of the Court or Judge as aforesaid.

Affirmations—Taking Statement in lieu of Oath in some cases.

32. In any civil or criminal proceedings in the Central Court or Courts of Petty Sessions of this Colony, the presiding Judge or Judges of the Central Court and the Justices sitting in the several Courts of Petty Sessions may, after the administering of a caution to a witness who is ignorant of the nature of an oath, take the statement of such witness; and such statement may, at the discretion of the Court, be received as evidence in the same manner as if such evidence had been taken after the administering of an oath in the ordinary manner. Any person knowingly and wilfully giving false evidence in any such statement shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be liable to imprisonment with or without hard labour for any term not exceeding two years.

Registration—Registration of Births, &c.; Penalty in default of—Licensing of persons to perform Marriage Ceremony.

33. That all births, marriages, and deaths occurring or taking place in the Colony of Fiji shall be registered in accordance with the forms required by the Acts relating to such matters in the Colony of New South Wales, provided that any person required by such Acts to register any birth, marriage, or death, shall, on failure of so doing within three months from date thereof, be liable to a penalty not exceeding 10*l.*, or one month's imprisonment in default of payment forthwith; and further, that any person solemnizing marriage between any persons in the Colony of Fiji, without being licensed thereto in writing by his Excellency the Governor, or the officer administering the Government, shall, on conviction thereof before the Police Magistrate or two Justices of the Peace, forfeit the sum of 10*l.*, recoverable by levy and distress.

Companies to be Registered.

34. That all Companies established under the provisions of the "Joint-Stock Companies' Act of New South Wales Act," 17 Vict., No. 9, shall be registered with the Registrar of the Central Court.

Intestate Estates.

35. The Registrar of the Central Court shall be the Official Curator and Administrator of Intestate Estates. The European Judge of the Central Court shall frame rules for the administration of such estates, which rules shall, upon confirmation by the Administrator of the Government and the Executive Council, be binding upon all parties concerned.

Fees, &c., to be paid into Treasury.

36. All fees, fines, and penalties payable or imposed under this Proclamation or under any law hereby adopted, shall be paid into the Treasury, and form part of the revenue of the Colony of Fiji, any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given under my hand and seal, at Nasova, this 13th day of October, A.D. 1874, and in the 38th year of Her Majesty's reign.

By his Excellency's command,
(Signed) JOHN B. THURSTON, *Colonial Secretary.*

God save the Queen!

Inclosure 4 in No. 6.

The "Fiji Government Gazette" of October 14, 1874.

POLYNESIAN IMMIGRATION AND LABOUR.

Fiji, to wit.

(L.S.) HERCULES ROBINSON. *Governor.*

Proclamation by His Excellency Sir Hercules George Robert Robinson, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Governor, Commander-in-chief, and Vice-Admiral of the Colony of New South Wales and its Dependencies, Governor of Norfolk Island, and, provisionally, Governor of Fiji.

WHEREAS it is deemed expedient to make provision, pending the notification of Her Majesty's pleasure herein, for the regulation and control of the hiring and service of Polynesian immigrants, and the carrying of such immigrants on board vessels.

Now, therefore, I, Sir Hercules George Robert Robinson, the Governor aforesaid, do hereby, with the advice of the Executive Council, proclaim and direct:—

That, pending the notification of Her Majesty's pleasure as aforesaid, the Act of the Parliament of the Colony of Queensland, 31 Victoria, No. 47, intituled, "An Act to Regulate and Control the Introduction and Treatment of Polynesian Labourers," is hereby adopted as the law of this Colony, so far as the provisions of the said Act shall be applicable to the circumstances of this Colony. I do further direct that the provisions of the said Act, in its application to this Colony, may be modified in certain particulars, as may be determined upon by the Administrator of the Government, by and with the advice of the Executive Council, and notified in the "Government Gazette."

Given under my hand and seal, at Nasova, this 14th day of October, in the year of our Lord 1874, and in the 38th year of Her Majesty's reign.

By his Excellency's command,
(Signed) JOHN B. THURSTON, *Colonial Secretary.*

God save the Queen!

Colonial Secretary's Office, Levuka, October 14, 1874.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint the following gentlemen to be Justices of the Peace for the Colony of Fiji :—

Alexander Barrack, of Savu Savu, Esq.
James Blythe, of Yaqeta, Yasawa, Esq.
Nathaniel Chalmers, of Koro, Esq.
Otty Cudlip, of Levuka, Esq.
Alfred Beresford D'Este, of Tavua, Esq.
Alexander Gordon, of Nadi, Esq.
Edward Graham, of Naitaisiri, Esq.
Hamilton Hunter, of South Taviuni, Esq.
Paul Joske, of Suva, Esq.
Herbert Levick, of Loma Loma, Esq.
John McCaig, of Nadroga, Esq.
James Edward Mason, of North Taviuni, Esq.
Rupert Ryder, of Mago, Esq.
John Scott, of Tai Levu, Esq.
William Scott, of Levuka, Esq.
Samuel Frederick Sewell, of Loma Loma, Esq.
George S. Smith, of Levuka, Esq.
David Waterson, of Rewa, Esq.
David Wilkinson, of Bua, Esq.

By his Excellency's command,
(Signed) JOHN B. THURSTON, *Colonial Secretary.*

Inclosure 5 in No. 6.

The "Fiji Government Gazette" of October 14, 1874.

HIS Excellency the Governor has been pleased to make the following provisional appointments, pending the notification of Her Majesty's pleasure as regards the permanent Constitution and Government of the Colony :—

Executive.

Cyril H. H. Irvine, Esq., to be Clerk of the Executive Council and Despatch Clerk n the Colonial Secretary's Office.

Judicial.

Joseph Hector Garrick, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, to be the European Judge of the Central Court of Fiji and Chief Police Magistrate of the Colony.

Ratu Marika, to be the Native Judge of the Central Court of Fiji.

Sydney Charles Burt, Esq., to be Crown Prosecutor and Legal Adviser to the Government.

Mr. William Isaac Thomas, to be Registrar of the Central Court of Fiji and Sheriff of the Colony.

Mr. John Harman, to be Interpreter and Clerk to the European Judge and Chief Police Magistrate.

Mr. John St. Julian, to be Clerk of Petty Sessions for the Police Court Levuka.

Colonial Secretary's Office.

Mr. John Langford, to be Clerk.

Mr. David John Chisholm, to be Clerk.

Dr. John Cruickshank, to be Medical Officer to the Government.

Mr. John David William Vaughan, to be Housekeeper and Overseer of Stores and Works.

Postal.

Captain Frederick Platt Blackmore, to be Chief Postmaster of the Colony.

Police.

Mr. James Doxey Senior, to be Sub-Inspector of Police.
Mr. William W. Thomas, to be Clerk.

Gaols.

Mr. John Cox, to be Gaoler, Levuka.
Mr. John Williams, to be Warder of the Gaol, Levuka.
Mr. James Molloy, to be Gaoler and Sub-Inspector of Police, Lovoni.

Treasury.

Mr. Charles E. Gundry, to be Accountant.

Customs.

Mr. David Henry Smart, to be Collector of Customs.
Mr. Nicholas Samuel Hedstrom, to be Harbour-Master.
Mr. Thomas Thomson, to be Clerk and Bond-Keeper.
Mr. Sydney Wilson, to be Boarding-Officer.
Mr. William Good, to be Boarding-Officer.
Mr. D. J. Christy, to be Light-Keeper.

Department of Native Affairs.

Henry Charles Thurston, Esq., to be Stipendiary Magistrate for the South Coast of Viti Levu and Kadavu.

Alexander Eastgate, Esq., to be Stipendiary Magistrate for the North Coast of Viti Levu and Yasawa.

John Packer Gore Martin, Esq., to be Stipendiary Magistrate for Vanua Levu and Taviuni.

Horace Caton G. Emberson, Esq., to be Stipendiary Magistrate for the Windward Islands, including Moala, Totoya, and Matuku, and to be Deputy-Collector of Customs at Loma Loma.

The following Chiefs will be Rokos of Provinces as under:—

1. Maafu, Lau.
2. Tui Cakau, Cakadrove.
3. Ratu Epeli, Tai Levu and Naitisiri.
4. Ratu Savanaca, Central Islands or Lomai Viti.
5. Tui Macuata, Macuata.
6. Tui Bua, Bua.
7. Tui Dreketi, Rewa.
8. Cagi Levu, Kadavu.
9. Ratu Kini, Nadroga.
10. Ratu Isikeli, Ra.
11. Roko Tui Bau, Ba and Yasawa.
12. Matanitobua, Namosi.

Mr. Henry Bentley, to be Immigration Agent and Protector of Imported Labourers.
Mr. Robert Robertson, to be Clerk to the Secretary for Native Affairs.

By his Excellency's command,
(Signed) JOHN B. THURSTON, *Colonial Secretary.*

Inclosure 6 in No. 6.

The "Fiji Government Gazette" of October 15, 1874.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Fiji, October 14, 1874.

HIS Excellency the Governor has been pleased to direct that the following statements showing the Estimated Revenue and Authorized Expenditure for the year ending the 10th October, 1875, be published for general information.

By his Excellency's command,
(Signed) JOHN B. THURSTON, *Colonial Secretary.*

Return showing the Estimated Revenue and the Authorized Expenditure of the Provisional Colonial Government of Fiji, from the 10th October, 1874.

ESTIMATED REVENUE.

Branch of Service.	For year ending 10th October, 1875.
	£
Customs duties	15,000
Pilotage and light dues	300
Licenses on interinsular trading crafts and on harbour boats plying for hire	300
Native taxes—	
Native labour	4,500
Imported labour	1,500
Fees and fines of Courts	750
Licenses to Polynesian immigrant vessels	200
Wine and spirit licenses	750
Auctioneers' licenses	75
Miscellaneous	500
Total	23,875

AUTHORIZED EXPENDITURE.

Branch of Service.	For Year ending 10th October, 1875, unless sooner amended by order of Her Majesty's Government.					
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
ESTABLISHMENTS.						
I.—*Executive.*						
1. His Excellency the Governor	Nil.					
2. The Administrator of the Government	Nil.					
3. Pension to Tui Viti (Thakombau)..	900	0	0			
4. Colonial Secretary	400	0	0			
5. Colonial Treasurer	400	0	0			
6. Secretary for Native Affairs	400	0	0			
7. Chief Interpreter to the Government	300	0	0			
8. Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor ..	300	0	0			
9. Clerk to the Executive Council	200	0	0			
				2,900	0	0
II.—*Judicial.*						
1. Judge of Central Court and Chief Magistrate ..	500	0	0			
2. Native Judge	120	0	0			
3. Public Prosecutor and Legal Adviser to Government..	250	0	0			
4. Registrar and Sheriff	240	0	0			
5. Interpreter and Judge's Clerk	150	0	0			
6. Clerk of Petty Sessions, Police Court	150	0	0			
				1,410	0	0
III.—*Colonial Secretary's Office.*						
1. Two Clerks	400	0	0			
2. Medical Officer..	150	0	0			
3. Housekeeper and Overseer of Stores and Works ..	150	0	0			
				700	0	0
IV.—*Postal.*						
1. Postmaster	250	0	0			
2. Native Messenger	10	8	0			
				260	8	0
V.—*Police.*						
1. Superintendent	200	0	0			
2. Sub-Inspector	150	0	0			
3. Clerk	100	0	0			
4. One European Sergeant and three European Constables	400	0	0			
5. 200 Native Constabulary of all ranks (rations) ..	600	0	0			
				1,450	0	0
VI.—*Gaols.*						
1. Gaoler, Levuka	180	0	0			
2. Warder	90	0	0			
3. Gaoler, Lovoni (without rations)	150	0	0			
				420	0	0

Branch of Service.	For Year ending 10th October, 1875, unless sooner amended by order of Her Majesty's Government.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
VII.—*Treasury.*		
1. Accountant	200 0 0	
		200 0 0
VIII.—*Customs.*		
1. Collector	200 0 0	
2. Harbour Master	200 0 0	
3. Clerk and Bond Keeper	150 0 0	
4. Boarding Officer	150 0 0	
5. Ditto	150 0 0	
6. Light Keeper	50 0 0	
		900 0 0
IX.—*Native Affairs.*		
1. Four Stipendiary Magistrates at 240*l.* (see Schedule A in Appendix)	960 0 0	
2. Clerk to Secretary for Native Affairs	200 0 0	
3. Twelve Provincial Chiefs, Rokos (see Schedule B in Appendix)—		
£ s. d.		
One at 600*l.* 600 0 0		
One at 360*l.* 360 0 0		
One at 340*l.* 340 0 0		
One at 240*l.* 240 0 0		
Two at 220*l.* 440 0 0		
Three at 200*l.* 600 0 0		
One at 140*l.* 140 0 0		
Two at 100*l.* 200 0 0		
	2,920 0 0	
4. Allowance to Adi Kuila	100 0 0	
5. Twelve Native Stipendiary Magistrates at 24*l.* (see Schedule C in Appendix)	288 0 0	
6. Eighty-two Bulis, as follows (see Schedule D in Appendix)—		
£ s. d.		
Thirty-one at 10*l.* 310 0 0		
Thirty-five at 5*l.* 175 0 0		
Twenty at 3*l.* 60 0 0		
	545 0 0	
7. Coxswain and Messenger to Secretary for Native Affairs	75 0 0	
8. Immigration Agent and Protector of Imported Labourers	240 0 0	
		5,328 0 0
Total Establishments	..	13,568 8 0
Exclusive of Services' Establishments.		
X.—*Judicial.*		
1. Jury Fees and Witnesses expenses in Crown cases ..	100 0 0	
2. Incidentals	10 0 0	
		110 0 0
XI.—*Colonial Secretary's Office.*		
1. Stationery for all Departments except Native Affairs ..	200 0 0	
2. Hospital fees	25 0 0	
3. Coroner's fees	20 0 0	
4. Incidentals	25 0 0	
		270 0 0
XII.—*Works.*		
1. Printing	250 0 0	
2. Rent of Public Offices	300 0 0	
3. Enclosing and keeping in order Cemetery	100 0 0	
4. Repairs to buildings	200 0 0	
5. Incidentals, stores, &c.	160 0 0	
6. Material for lighting and repairs to streets and bridges in Levuka	300 0 0	
		1,310 0 0
XIII.—*Police.*		
1. Rations for 200 men, clothing, and allowances ..	1,600 0 0	
2. Travelling expenses for Police and Prisoners ..	20 0 0	
3. Travelling expenses of Superintendent, at 7*s.* 6*d.* per diem	35 0 0	
		1,655 0 0

Branch of Service.	For Year ending 10th October, 1875, unless sooner amended by order of Her Majesty's Government.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
XIV.—*Gaols.*		
1. Rations for Prisoners	200 0 0	
2. Incidentals	20 0 0	
		220 0 0
XV.—*Treasury.*		
1. Incidentals	50 0 0	
		50 0 0
XVI.—*Customs' and Harbour Master's Office.*		
1. Two boats' crews at 12*l*.	24 0 0	
2. Rations for same	30 0 0	
3. Flags, Sykes' hydrometer, gauging rods, &c., scale, platform, and incidentals	100 0 0	
4. Buoys for mail steamer	50 0 0	
		204 0 0
XVII.—*Native Affairs.*		
1. Travelling expenses for Secretary for Native Affairs, at 7*s*. 6*d*. per diem	35 0 0	
2. Travelling expenses for four Stipendiary Magistrates, at 7*s*. 6*d*. per diem	200 0 0	
3. Four boats' crews for Magistrates, and repairs to boats.	150 0 0	
4. Boat's crew for Secretary	30 0 0	
5. Stationery and incidentals	100 0 0	
		515 0 0
Total, exclusive of Establishments	..	4,334 0 0
Summary.		
Total Establishments	..	13,558 8 0
Total, exclusive of Establishments	..	4,334 0 0
Total Estimate of Expenditure	..	17,902 8 0

Schedule A in Appendix to Estimates.

The four European Stipendiary Magistrates are to be distributed through the Group as follows :

	District.	Places at which Courts to be held.
One Magistrate. (Mr. Martin.)	Vanua Levu and Taviuni.	Somo Somo. Na Savu Savu. Bua. Naduri (Macuata).
		North Coast.
Two Magistrates. (Messrs. Eastgate and Thurston.)	Viti Levu, Yasawa, and Kadavu.	Bau. Korotubu. Raki Raki. Ba. Yasawa (Matacanalevu).
		South Coast.
One Magistrate. (Mr. Henry Chas. Thurston.)	.. ..	Rewa. Namosi (Serua or Navua. Nadroga. Nadi. Kadavu.
One Magistrate. (Mr. H. G. C. Emberson.)	Windward Islands, including Moala, Totoga, and Matuku.	Loma Loma. Lakeba.

Schedule B in Appendix to Estimates.

Return of Provincial Chiefs hereafter to be styled Rokos, showing their Salaries as fixed under the Government of 1871, under the Ad-interim Government of March, 1874, and under the Colonial Provisional Government of 10th October, 1874.

	Province.	Name of principal Chief or Roko.	Original Salary.	Reduced Salary from March 1874.	Salary now fixed under Colonial Provisional Government.	Remarks.
			£	£	£	
1	Lau	Maafu	800	640	600	Has not received any salary under Ad-interim Government.
2	Cakaudrove	Tui Cakau	600	480	360	Has only received 5*l.* under Ad-interim Government.
3	Tai Levu and Naitasiri.. ..	Ratu Epeli	300	240	340	These two Provinces have been united.
			300	200	100	This 100*l.* is for the present to be paid to Adi Kuila, widow of the late Chief of Naitasiri.
4	Loma i Viti or Central Islands ..	Ratu Savinaca	300	240	240	
5	Macuata	Tui Macuata	300	240	220	
6	Bua	Tui Bua	300	220	220	
7	Rewa	Tui Dreketi	300	200	200	
8	Kadavu	Cagi Levu	300	200	200	
9	Nadroga	Ratu Kini	300	200	200	
10	Ra	Ratu Isikeli	300	150	100	These two Provinces, 10 and 11, formerly formed one under Isikeli, but have been divided at an additional expense of 50*l.*
11	Ba and Yasawas	Roko Tui Bua	..	..	100	
12	Namusi	Mata Nitobua, and Chief of Serua ..	300	140	140	
			4,400	3,150	3,020	

Schedule C in Appendix to Estimates.

List of Native Stipendiary Magistrates.

Province.	Name.
1. Lau	Ioni Mafi, Tevita Uluilakeba.
2. Cakaudrovi	Kuliloa, Maika Vuki.
3. Tailevu and Naitasiri	Ilaitia Toraca.
4. Lomaeviti..	Samuela.
5. Macuata	(Not yet filled.)
6. Bua	Esikaia Vunidaga.
7. Rewa	Napoleone Vakamocea.
8. Kadavu	Peni Suluagalo.
9. Nadroga	Emosa, Loca.
10. Ra	(Not yet filled.)
11. Ba and Yasawa	Malilili Rokodmona, Joni Naravudi.
12. Namosi	Cagidaveta.

Note.—Where two Magistrates are appointed for one Province, the salary to be divided.

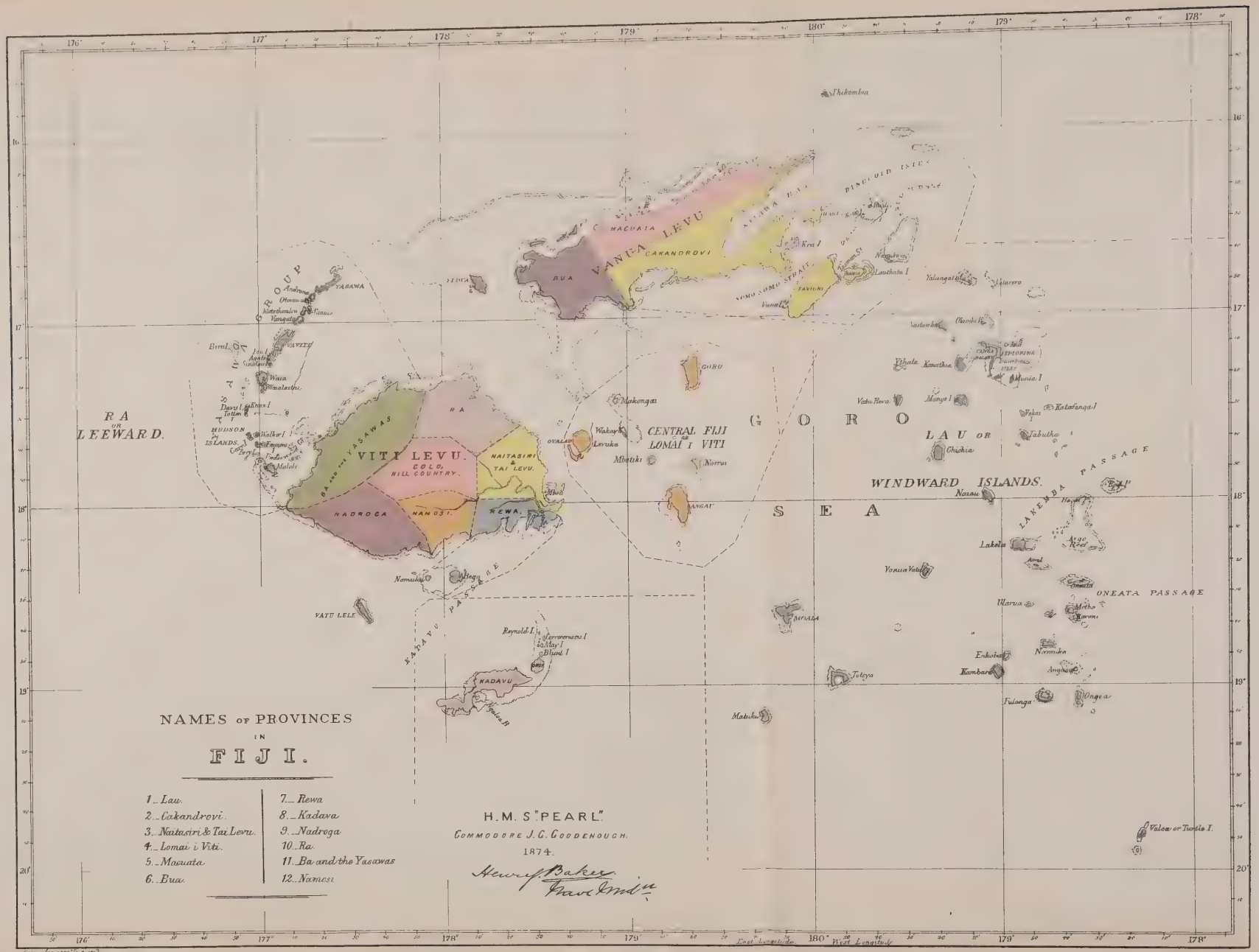
Schedule D in Appendix to Estimates.

Return of Provincial Chiefs and Bulis of Districts.

	Province Yasawa.	Chief Nakena Roko.	First Class Districts.		Second Class Districts.		Third Class Districts.	
			Districts.	Name of Bulis.	Districts.	Name of Bulis.	Districts.	Name of Bulis.
1	Lau	Maafu	Lekeba	Tevita Ulilakeba ..	Loma Loma ..	Ratu Mudu ..	Ono	Tui Ono.
					Moala	(Not yet filled) ..	Mua Levu ..	(Not yet filled.)
2	Cakaudrovi ..	Tui Cakau	Wailevu	Tui Wailevu ..	Waituilevu ..	.. ..	Laucala	Tui Laucala.
			Savu Savu ..	Tui Nasavusavu ..	Cakaudrovi.			
			Natewa	Vunivalu	Wainikeli ..	Ratu Tuiwai.		
			Loma Loma ..	Tui Somo Somo ..	Vuna	Tui Vuna.		
3	Tai Levu and Naitasiri	Ratu Epeli	Bau	Ratu Mualeleli ..	Tokotoko ..	Cola Matisiga ..	Bureta	Savinaca Veikoro.
			Nakelo	Mele Ragata ..	Verata	Kitiona Liubua ..	Dravu	Nepoliani Rabuno.
			Vugalea	Serulakowaga ..	Solira	Rakuita	Kuku	Dabea.
			Wai Maro ..	Ratu Nai Cola ..	Matailobau ..	Batiratu	Namata	Solomoni Kalonivutia.
			Namena	Lawaniyawi ..	.. ..	.. ..	Namora	Pafalaga.
			Navuso	Uraia Intina ..	.. ..	.. ..	Vuna	Bola Sua Sua.
4	Lomai Viti ..	Ratu Savinaca ..	Ovalau	Samuela Macedru ..	Moturiki ..	Semisi Savutu.		
			Naqamai ..	Vilimoni Verwasi ..	Cawa	Waisaki Taganimadi.		
			Saniyaki ..	Selia Lewanivanua ..	Namuanaira ..	Watisoni Cebata.		
					Nairai .. .	Amivitabi Tuisawau.		
					Batiki	Josaia Lauvili.		
					Yadua	Poasi Kulitoa.		
5	Macuata	Tui Macuata ..	Macuata	Muduyabia ..	Dreketi	Surayalevu.		
			Naduri	Katoniveri	Labasa	Rokoveitebe.		
					Veisoqo.			
6	Bua	Tui Bua	Sekutu	Semi Debalevu ..	Navakasiga ..	Masisiwa	Nadi	Manasa Vusamosi.
			Bua	Maika Ratu ..	Solevu	Maika	Wainunu ..	Vatu.
			Ravi Ravi ..	Tevita Suraki ..	Kubolau	Bulisolevu	Nawacu	Seme Radrudru.
					Dawa	Tui Vuga.		
						Eliesa Matani.		
7	Rewa	Roko Tui Dreketi ..	Noco	Josaia Reyana ..	Beqa	Tui Sauwau ..	Suva	Avarosa Tuivuya.
			Rewa	Veceli Namusidroka.				
			Serua	Gagabokola.				
8	Kadavu	Nacagilevu ..	Tavuki	Sairusi	Nalevu	Tawakalou	Yawi	Korolagi.
			Nabukilevu ..	Jokotami Koromako .	Yale	Vui Naitasiri ..	Ono	Usaia Kuliloa.
					Nakasaleka ..	Jekopi Sogeta.		
9	Nadronga	Ratu Kini	Nadronga ..	Gotaitubea	Tavuni	Totoaveiwavi ..	Vatulele	Racava.
			Malu Malu ..	Nacika	Nokonoko ..	Nakulaniyasiyasi ..	Malolo	Wainika.
					Nawailevu ..	Nakarasa	Waisovi	Vakayacounuku.
					Waicolo	Nagege	Nasikawa ..	Namanumanunivudi.

	Province Yasawa.	Chief Nakena Roko.	First Class Districts.		Second Class Districts.		Third Class Districts.	
			Districts.	Name of Bulis.	Districts.	Name of Bulis.	Districts.	Name of Bulis.
10	Ra	Isikeli	Korotubu. Raki Raki.					
11	Ba and Yasawas ..	Ratu Puniyani Vuki..	Tavua .. .. Yasawa	Koroitubuna .. Malalili Rokodinono ..	Vuda .. .. Nadi .. .. Saqunu .. .. Bulu	Nasorowale .. Navula. Tawaki. Nabeka.	Veitogo	(Not yet filled.)
12	Namusi	Matanitabua ..	Namosi	Naitaukeinivunisaqiwa				

	£
First Class, 31 at 10*l.* per annum	310
Second Class, 35 at 5*l.* per annum	175
Third Class, 20 at 3*l.* per annum	60


NAMES of PROVINCES
IN
FIJI.
1._Lau.
2._Cakandrovi.
3._Natasiri & Tai Levu.
4._Lomai i Viti.
5._Mavuna
6._Bua.
7._Rewa
8._Kadava
9._Nadroga
10._Ra.
11._Ba and the Yasawas
12._Namosi
H.M.S. "PEARL"
COMMODORE J.G. GOODENOUGH.
1874.
Hewett Baker
Hydr. Draftsmn
VITI LEVU.
COLO, HILL COUNTRY.
RA
LEEWARD.
WINDWARD ISLANDS.
CENTRAL FIJI
LOMAI I VITI
LAU OR
S E A
MACUATA
VANUA LEVU
CAKANDROVI
BUA
NAITASIRI & TAI LEVU.
NADROGA
NAMOSI.
REWA.
KADAVU
KADAVU PASSAGE
ONEATA PASSAGE
LAKEMBA PASSAGE
VATU LELE
Thikombia
Kea I
Lauthala I
Yangatta
Viarero
Vuna I
Makongai
Wakaya
Levuka
Mbau
Nairai
Matuku
Motuha
Ongea
Valea or Turtle I.
East Longitude
West Longitude

Inclosure 7 in No. 6.

Sir, *"Pearl," Levuka, Fiji, October* 9, 1874.

I AM engaged at this moment, as you are aware, in organizing a provisional Colonial Government to come into operation to-morrow upon the formal cession of Fiji to the British Crown.

The complaints, apparently well founded, which are publicly urged as to the cruelties and outrages perpetrated upon the helpless inhabitants of the country districts by the native armed constabulary, render it most desirable that that force should be at once considerably reduced in numbers, and placed under an officer capable of protecting the rural population from such abuse of power.

I do not know of any one so fitted for such a post as Lieutenant Olive of the Royal Marine Light Infantry, and I should feel much obliged, if you could, consistently with the requirements of the public service, spare me the services of that officer, for such an important temporary duty, until Her Majesty's pleasure be known respecting the permanent establishments of the new Colony.

I should propose, if it should meet your views, to offer Lieutenant Olive, while employed upon this temporary service, a salary at the rate of 200*l.* a year (in addition to his imperial pay and allowances), together with free quarters, and a travelling allowance of 7*s.* 6*d.* per day when absent on duty from head-quarters in Levuka.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERCULES ROBINSON.

Commodore Goodenough,
Commanding Australian Station.

Inclosure 8 in No. 6.

Sir, *"Pearl," Levuka, Fiji, October* 9, 1874.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Excellency's letter of this date, and, in accordance with the request contained therein, I will desire Lieutenant Olive to follow your Excellency's directions, and he will he discharged to the shore at once to commence his new duties.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. G. GOODENOUGH, *Captain and Commodore, 2nd Class, Commanding Australian Station.*

His Excellency Sir Hercules Robinson, K.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

Inclosure 9 in No. 6.

Map.

Inclosure 10 in No. 6.

Extracts from the "Fiji Times."

From the "Fiji Times" of September 23, 1874.

Local Labour.

To the Editor of the "Fiji Times."

Sir, *Levuka, September* 19, 1874.

AT the risk of being troublesome, I have again to draw attention to the manner in which this Government, through their officer, Mr. Leefe, are oppressing the unfortunate Ra Coast natives. From two labour boats which arrived here, from that district this morning, I gather the following reliable information from a person direct from Mr. Leefe's prison depôt, and who states, labourers are obtained as follows :—

Any men and women whose taxes are in arrear, are summoned to appear before the Warden, Mr. Leefe, to answer to the same. The usual method pursued, is to send a

general summons, embracing perhaps, all the adult population of a large town, and 1*s.* mileage is charged individually, for service of summons. These unfortunate natives are compelled to attend the Court, and in the absence of any advocate, are mulct in the sum of 5 or 1 dol., as the case may be (male or female), together with the costs of Court, including the mileage, which amounts to about 4 dollars per man; of course they cannot pay, and are then sentenced to work out the amount, at the rate of 1*s.* per week, and are compelled to engage with planters for one year. Of course, the usual farce is gone through of asking these people if they are willing to work, but what answer dare they give, but "yee." Then what follows, husbands and wives are dragged away from their homes, their little surroundings become lost and destroyed. They have to endure a bitter and compulsory bondage of twelve months, with the prospect of returning to their cold and desolute hearths—with fresh taxes in view, *ad infinitum*. Is Mr. Consul Layard, Captain Chapman, and the Wesleyan Missionaries aware of this abominable slavery, which is perpetrated under their very gaze. In the interests of humanity, I call upon them to investigate this matter, and put a stop to it. Let it never be said that the Provincial Government, desirous as they may be to get the revenue, stooped to oppress the willing Ra natives, in this unjustifiable manner. In my former letter, I pointed out that there were many thousands of able bodied natives in other parts of the group, who should be called upon to help in meeting the revenue, and not let the burden fall wholly upon the Ra men. And as a planter, I warn the Windward planters, that the course now adopted by the authorities at the Ra is prejudicial to their best interests. And I call upon them to raise their voices against it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SCRUTATOR.

Of late several communications have appeared in our columns touching upon the manner in which the natives who are unable to pay the governmental taxes are treated; and it is very evident, from the remarks of our correspondents, that the evil complained of is not confined to one locality, but is gradually, but surely, becoming more and more widely spread. We say that, in the first place, it is one which should never have been allowed to originate; and, secondly, not only that its progress should be stopped, but all proceedings taken in connection with it be at once set aside.

The Constitution of Fiji proclaims that all men are equal, and those who passed the laws under it, immediately proceeded to prove the absurdity of the proposition by enacting class regulations, and providing for class legislation; with what shadow of right, let the framers of these directions show; with what positive amount af wrong, let the numerous instances of cruel oppression, under which those whose cause we here advocate are labouring, speak with trumpet tongue.

It is an undoubted fact that, notwithstanding the introduction of a Parliament founded and formed upon a British basis, and of laws which, being found applicable to the circumstances of England, and to those of some of her Colonies, are sagely supposed to be most thoroughly suitable to this kingdom,—the power of the Chiefs, and the authority exercised by them over their erstwhile subjects, remain in full vigour, and are exercised without question on any hand. The Chiefs rule, and the people obey, by mere force of usage; and any attempt to convince the former, by argument only, that their position had changed with the course of events, would only excite their pitying ridicule, and but leave matters where they were before. In support of their titles and traditional rights, they still insist that their demands shall be met by those over whom they have so long held sway; and the happy "kai sai" finds himself in the enviable position of having still to provide for the wants, and obey the behests, of his feudal Chief, and at the same time meet the claims imperatively insisted upon by a solicitous and but too paternal Government.

Thus, after having satisfied the requirements of his more immediate, and certainly, to him, more powerful ruler, the native is compelled to contribute to the taxation imposed upon him by the general Power, which, if it cannot be paid in coin, will generously consent to take its claim in enforced servitude.

We are not aware as to how many of the white residents of the group, who neglected or refused to pay taxes, have ever been imprisoned on account of their laches to the State; but we certainly labour under an impression that a local law exists prohibiting imprisonment for debt, and that it does not except that, which of all shortcomings is undoubtedly the worst in Statesmen's eyes—the non-payment of taxes.

We have been stigmatized time after time, and with all that emphasis which only an assumed acquaintance with facts could justify, as being a community of slave-holders;

of fostering and encouraging the noxious seed and its evil growth in our midst; of being callous and totally indifferent to the calls of humanity provided attention to them would affect our pockets; and, generally, of viewing those who, in race and colour, may have the misfortune to differ from us, as mere beasts of burden, born but to minister to our desires or wants.

It has been one of the necessities of our unfortunate position that we have had to bear these imputations; certainly not without protest, outspoken and true; but the distance at which we are placed from our detractors has prevented our remonstrances and denials from acting as antidotes to that poison with which either ignorance or malice have sought to kill the truth; and the whole body politic has suffered from these slanders and misrepresentations.

But when we find that slavery is becoming introduced under the guise of law; when the cries of suffering victims reach our ears; when we know that but a few weeks back one minor Chief proposed, and was with difficulty prevented from, the commission of suicide, and simply because he and his people were deprived of liberty under these most atrocious regulations; it were worse than criminal to remain silent; to refrain from awakening the attention of those who would think it shame to stand idly by while such things be, and to rest supine while interests they are bound to protect are being thus disgraced, thus betrayed.

The system is this. Some unfortunate natives are unable to pay their taxes, amounting in some cases to one, in others to a few shillings each. They are summoned to attend a Court, and, upon conviction for non-payment, are sentenced to a term of enforced servitude for some planter, or at the so-called Government plantation, the term of imprisonment being at the rate of one week for each shilling. But to the original sum in default is added the cost of summons, calculated, as we are informed, on a scale so monstrous that we are awaiting the details for publication; and thus, with every conceivable or inconceivable expense added, they must be lucky men indeed who find themselves sentenced for any period less than nine or twelve months. Men, do we say! We hasten to apologise. The same beneficent arrangement which has been so kindly anxious for the welfare of the sterner sex, has been no less solicitous for that of the softer; and women, with their children, accompany their lords, and enforcedly share their labour, and contribute and add to the sum which thus finds its way into the Treasury chest, or, instead of salary, into the pockets of the district officers.

Is there no remedy for this state of matters? No functionary who will call the official attention of the Judges to this violation of the fundamental principles of the Constitution, and obtain a judicial opinion as to whether the Executive Act is or is not *ultra vires*, and totally worthless? Has our *ad interim* Government no lawyer whom it may consult, or will it be content to let this monstrous blot and disgrace upon our annals remain and grow to the dishonour of all! We have given every publicity to the atrocious shame, and thus discharged our duty. Let others now perform theirs.

The native poll-tax, and the manner of enforcing it, is creating considerable dissatisfaction on all sides. In another column we publish a letter on the subject, and other complaints have reached us. Only last week, it appears, Mr. Leefe, Warrat Nananu, summonsed a whole town for arrears of taxes. Nineteen men and twenty women were sentenced, in default of payment to hard labour—the former for 35 weeks, and the latter to 19 weeks; subsequently they were hired to planters at 1*s.* per week, until the amount of the tax, together with 5*s.* for summons and 10*s.* for serving it in each case (although only one summons was issued) be fully paid. This is collecting taxes with a vengeance, and such proceedings are eminently calculated to engender ill-feeling on the side of the natives, and to create disturbances in retaliation for such extraordinary treatment. It is no wonder that Her Britannic Majesty's Consul and the Commodore were everywhere met by natives, imploring to be relieved from the severe rule of the *de facto* Government, and beseeching those high officers to annex the islands to Great Britain.

To the Editor of the "Fiji Times."

Sir,

One of the speakers in a recent discussion in the English Parliament, on the question of annexation, declared that "domestic slavery" could on no account be tolerated. His views would meet with approbation throughout the British Dominions, but must have been galling to the minds of some of the self-constituted authorities in Fiji, whose

sympathies in favour of the execrable traffic are very well known (their protestations to the contrary notwithstanding.) In Fiji, slavery of a "domestic" and "legalized" type exists to an extent not dreamt of by the public abroad, and not a hand is lifted up to prevent it, or to bring the perpetrators thereof to the bar of justice. When the tax of five dollars a head on men and one dollar a-head on women was imposed, it was distinctly agreed that the Chiefs should cease their oppresive impositions upon the people. They have not kept their promise, and Thurston and Co. have connived at their misdoings. Notwithstanding the arbitrary proceedings of Chiefs, the Government tax is sought to be ground out of the natives with cruel severity. A certain Chief a short time ago ordered the people of Ovalau, in return for help rendered at the time of the Lovoni war, to plant thousands of yams, to be handed over to said Chief, in due season. The people spent all the hard earned cash they could get in purchasing seed yams, they devoted weeks in clearing land, and the preparation of gardens, innocently supposing that all this labour would be taken in lieu of the tax. But not so. The tax-gatherer pounced upon them for immediate payment of taxes, and because they failed to come forward, they were summoned to appear before Ratu Savanaca, to account for their misconduct! Had this occurred at the Ba, or Yassawas, unfortunates in arrears would no doubt have been shipped to Saivou Government plantation, *i.e.*, stockade, to work off an iniquitous fine in addition to the amount of arrears, just as many others are now doing. The authorities, to play off niggers into the hands of planters, for a term of one or two years' servitude, are pressing for the payment of an oppressive and iniquitous tax, and when British surveillance ceases (if such be the case) the tax and the pressure will be increased in proportion to the demand for labour. And thus this obnoxious traffic will be facilitated and continued, "as by law in such case made and provided." In spite of the Commodore's warning, prisoners of war have been hired out from Koro, to work on plantations at Taviuni. When, I ask, are these villanies to cease?

I am, &c.

(Signed) WILLIE WASP.

From the "Fiji Times" of September 26, 1874.

Brutal Treatment of Fijians.

To the Editor of the "Fiji Times."

Sir,

I received the following statement from a trustworthy person, and believing it to be true in its main features, I send it to you for insertion in your valuable paper:—

"A Fijian was arrested by the native police, and taken before two white and one native Magistrates, on the charge that he had protested against certain parties paying taxes—by stating that they were not required by law to pay taxes. He was kept in custody one night, and next day ordered to work—fishing for Beche-de-mer. At this he was kept for three weeks. About the end of this period a report reached Ba that the Government was broken up, whereupon all the prisoners dispersed to their homes. Subsequently this man was arrested, tried, it is supposed, on the charge of escaping from custody, and marched off to Rakiraki Government Station, some 30 miles from his home, where he was kept at work for nearly two months. Then he was marched back in custody to Ba, and handed over to some white man, to fish for Beche-de-mer, no one knows for how long, no time having been named in his hearing, and no offence being named to him. And there he is at the present time, September 10. The poor fellow offered the Magistrates all the money he was possessed of, 10*s.*, to be allowed to return to his home; but they said, 'Oh no, you must go and work.'"

Is not this a monstrous way of treating natives? And this is the way our paternal Government deals with the people of this country, while at the same time its leading members have been doing—and even now, are doing all they possibly can to prevent annexation taking place, telling the natives, that "if they cede the islands, they will be driven back into the mountains, and shot down like wild beasts." Even during the last week a report has been spread among the natives—and I know by whom—that "Mr. Thurston has got a paper, in which it is stated, that the British Government is willing to annex, but, on doing so, intends driving the natives from the islands in the centre of the group on to the mainland; and by-and-bye, when those lands are needed for the whites, will drive the natives back into the mountains."

It is time Sir Hercules Robinson arrived, and put an end one way or the other, to the existing state of things, by which the British Consul is Member of the Provisional Government, under whose authority are perpetrated such disgraceful acts as that com-

municated by my informant, and many others of a similar character, of which I am cognizant.

I am also informed that the wretched natives who are unable to pay their taxes are made to work on plantations at the rate of forty days for 4*s*., sixty days for 6*s*. At this rate the unfortunate wretches would have to work for 280 days in the year, to pay the yearly tax imposed upon a man and his wife.

I am, &c.
(Signed) WATCHMAN.

From the "Fiji Times" of October 7, 1874.

THE LABOUR TRAFFIC.

I observe in the last issue of the "Argus" that its editor gives a flat contradiction to the statements which have recently appeared in your journal, respecting the evils of the slave system, euphoniously and conveniently called the "Labour Traffic," which are perpetrated under the authority of the Provincial Government, the executive members of which are responsible for the outrages committed by the heartless monsters upon whom devolves the duty of collecting taxes and punishing the poverty stricken defaulters. Your contemporary says, "We need scarcely say there is not a word of truth in the letters and paragraph, &c., &c." Now, Sir, this assertion is a gross misstatement—to say the least of it—and if the writer be inspired from Nasova, as it is suggested, then the statement becomes a wilful deliberate falsehood, published, doubtless, with a motive. For I am able to state on the best authority, that information concerning the heartless treatment of the natives, the gross cruelties to which both men and women have been subjected under the iniquitous laws (and, in some instances, contrary to law) which are now being enforced, though condemned by the Executive two years ago as harsh and oppressive, has been given at Nasova. The outrageous proceedings of some of the Government officials are well known at Nasova. I am not prepared to say that all the details as given in "the paragraph and letters" referred to are literally correct, but I deliberately pledge my word that the facts are understated therein. The vile atrocious wrongs which have been perpetrated in connection with the labour traffic and the collection of taxes upon the helpless frightened natives—of both sexes—by a cowardly set of officials, assisted by a brutal, licentious soldiery, and connived at by the Executive, because the money—blood money—with God's curse surely stamped upon every coin, flows into the Treasury, are a foul blot even upon the worst Government with which this unhappy country has been afflicted; and yet, Sir, we are met on all sides with the canting cry "Oh! what a good thing for these poor natives to be taken away to the cotton plantations. You must civilize them first and then Christianize them." Out upon the foul-tongued, hypocritical, licentious ruffians, who commence the civilizing process by allowing the swinish soldiery to take possession of the villages, drive from their homes the husbands and fathers, and then perpetrate offences of which pandemonium might be ashamed; who continue this civilizing process by sentencing the unfortunate defaulting tax-payers to work out the tax, the cost of summons—a summons which, in numerous cases, was never served—mileage, &c., on plantations, and hand over men and women—some of whom are thus separated from husbands and wives and children—to labour agents (sending the infirm men and women to live as best they may or starve in their villages, which with their gardens have been devastated by the hurricane) who accompany the tax collector and then carry off their wretched victims to their vessels, when, while the men are fastened below under the hatches, the women are violated, and these infamous—I beg their pardon, these civilizers of "the poor natives" go on shore and boast of their brutalities—their swinish proclivities. I may add that, when the conduct of the soldiers was reported to their superior officer, he only said, "It is human nature you know, but if a case is proved against one of my men I'll punish him, not for the crime, but for being found out." I am prosecuting inquiries into the abominable doings on the Ra coast, and shall give fuller particulars by and by. In the meantime I challenge your contemporary to repeat the contradiction to which I have referred above.

I am, &c.
(Signed) FREDERICK LANGHAM,
Wesleyan Minister.

No. 7.

Sir Hercules Robinson, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received December 19.)

My Lord, *"Pearl," at sea, en route to Sydney, October 17, 1874.*

BEFORE leaving Levuka I paid a farewell visit to Thakombau and the other principal Chiefs who had assembled there from different parts of the group to confer with me upon the business of my mission.

2. As it may interest your Lordship to peruse the observations made by Thakombau and Maafu at this interview, I inclose notes of the conversation which took place on the occasion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERCULES ROBINSON.

Inclosure in No. 7.

Notes of a Meeting between his Excellency Sir Hercules Robinson and the Vunivalu and Chiefs at Dryimba, on Thursday, October 15, 1874.

AT 3 P.M. his Excellency, Sir Hercules Robinson, accompanied by Commodore Goodenough, and the Honourable J. G. L. Innes, and by Mr. Wilkinson, the Chief Interpreter of the Government, proceeded by appointment to pay a farewell visit to Thakombau and the other Chiefs. Sir Hercules Robinson was received by the Vunivalu, Maafu, and all the other Chiefs who signed the cession, except Ratu Epeli, who had been obliged to leave for Bau, and Ratu Isikeli, who was also absent on duty.

Upon being seated Sir Hercules Robinson said—

"Vunivalu and Chiefs, as I leave to-morrow morning for Sydney, I have come here to-day to bid you all farewell. I have been greatly pleased with my visit to this country. I have been much struck by the beauty and fertility of the islands, and I trust I may have an opportunity of re-visiting you on some future occasion. When you return to your respective Provinces, I hope you will explain fully to those under you what has taken place between us in Levuka, and that you will both by precept and example impress upon your people the advantages of industry and good order.

"Having had experience of native races elsewhere, I know that with them hasty changes are difficult and undesirable. The people must be led forward step by step, and in framing a new system for the government of this country under the Queen, I have accordingly tried to carry out, as far as possible, what I understand to be your wishes, and to adhere at present as closely as practicable to native official customs, boundaries, and traditions.

"My object is, that the Provisional British Government which I have established should gain the respect, the confidence, and the affection of both Chiefs and people; and I trust you will all co-operate with me in giving effect to this policy.

"Although I am leaving Fiji I shall continue, until Her Majesty can make some permanent appointment, to watch over the interests of the country. If any Chief or other Fijian should feel that he is aggrieved, he will only have to communicate with me by a petition to insure for his complaint prompt attention and investigation.

"I will only, in conclusion, say one word as to the past and the future. As regards the past, I hope that all differences and animosities will now be forgotten and subdued. The Vuni-valu's ("Root of war") war-club has been sent with a dutiful and loving message to our Queen. I hope all other weapons of strife have in like manner been buried at the foot of the staff upon which we have raised the Union Jack.

"As regards the future. It is in your hands. As the Vuni-valu said to me the other day, 'The future of Fiji is Britain.' And you must all remember that whilst British rule is mild, it is at the same time firm and all-powerful. You are now servants of the Queen, and if you cannot each of you in your respective provinces govern the people in accordance with what Her Majesty's Government may think just and right, you will have to give place to those who can more correctly appreciate the obligations of the position. I trust no such necessity may arise, but in these matters it is true kindness to be frank and explicit.

"I have finished. But one word more. Believe me, that in accepting the trouble and responsibility of the Government of Fiji the Queen has but one desire—the good government of the country, and the contentment and happiness of all classes of the population."

After a pause, during which Thacombau signed to Maafu to speak first, but the latter would not do so, Thacombau spoke as follows:—

"I am glad to hear what the Governor has said on his coming to say good-bye, and I am pleased to be able to say that from the Governor's first arrival up to the present time we have understood all that he has said and desired. I am glad on this occasion to hear such words of counsel, consideration, and goodness; and I hope that all present will now understand that they are Her Majesty's subjects and servants, and that, as the Governor has said, their future is in their own hands. They will be judged according to their behaviour and their deserts, and according to such judgment they will stand or fall.

"We know that we are not here now simply as an independent body of Fijian Chiefs, but as subordinate agents of the British Crown, and being bound together by strength and power, that strength and power will be able to overcome anything which tends to interfere with or interrupt the present unity.

"Any Chief attempting to pursue a course of disloyalty must expect to be dealt with on his own merits, and not to escape by any subterfuge, or by relying upon any Fijian customs, or upon his high family connexions."

Maafu then said:—

"What more can any of us say? The unity of to-day has been our desire for years. I have now been twenty years in Fiji, and I have never before seen such a sight as I see to-day—Fiji actually and truly united. We tried a Government ourselves; we did not succeed. That has passed away. Another, and a better and more permanent state of things has been brought into existence. I believe that I speak the mind of all present when I say that we are really and truly united in heart and will, and we are all gratified with what we have heard. We are true men, and will return to our homes knowing that the unity of Fiji is a fact, and that peace and prosperity will follow."

The meeting shortly afterwards closed; and Sir Hercules Robinson, accompanied by Commodore Goodenough, the Hon. J. G. L. Innes, and Mr. Wilkinson, returned on board Her Majesty's ship "Pearl."

(Signed) J. GEO. LONG INNES.

No. 8.

Sir Hercules Robinson, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(*Received December* 19.)

My Lord, "*Pearl*," *at sea, en route to Sydney, October* 18, 1874.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, a copy of an address which was presented to me before leaving Levuka, on behalf of the Wesleyan Missionaries stationed in Fiji, together with a copy of my reply.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERCULES ROBINSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 8.

To his Excellency Sir Hercules George Robert Robinson, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Governor, Commander-in-chief, and Vice-Admiral of the Colony of New South Wales and its Dependencies, Governor of Norfolk Island, and, provisionally, Governor of Fiji.

May it please your Excellency:

ON behalf of the Wesleyan Ministers now resident in the Colony of Fiji, we beg to assure your Excellency of our intense satisfaction with the cession of the Islands of Fiji to Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland.

As the Church to which we belong has ever proved itself most loyal to the British Crown, we feel we only act as spokesmen for our absent brethren the Wesleyan Ministers of Fiji, if we beg of your Excellency to receive our assurance of continued loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen.

Your Excellency will allow us to say that, in our opinion, our work as Christian missionaries would have received serious injury but for the proclamation of British sovereignty.

We trust that your Excellency's administration of the Government will be the means

of preventing evils in connection with a form of slavery, of the existence of which your Excellency is doubtless aware.

We desire to express our gratitude to Her Majesty's Government for your Excellency's appointment as Special Commissioner; we also wish to convey to your Excellency our appreciation of the services rendered to the cause of civilization by Commodore Goodenough and Mr. Consul Layard.

We venture to remind your Excellency that it is not forty years since missionaries representing the British Wesleyan Churches came to Fiji, then in a state of savage heathenism, and that, but for the blessing of God upon their labours, there would have been no British Fiji at the present day.

We pray God's continued blessing on your Excellency's administration of the Government of Fiji, and trust that your Excellency will ever be under Divine guidance.

Wishing your Excellency a safe voyage,

(Signed) JOSEPH WATERHOUSE.
SAMUEL W. BROOKS.
D. S. WYLIE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 8.

Reverend Gentlemen, *Nasova, October* 14, 1874.

I THANK you sincerely for the loyal and cordial Address which you have presented to me, and for the congratulations which you have been so good as to offer me upon the annexation of Fiji to the British Crown.

I entirely concur with you in the appreciation which you are so good as to express of the services rendered to Fiji by Commodore Goodenough and Mr. Consul Layard. The success which has attended my Mission is largely attributable to the care and ability with which those gentlemen had previously investigated the circumstances and requirements of the country.

I fervently trust that a new era has now dawned upon Fiji, and that under British rule, the moral as well as the material progress of the New Colony may, by the blessing of Providence, be effectually secured. The great social advances which have already been made within the last forty years from savage heathenism, are due to the self-denying and unostentatious labours of the Wesleyan Church; and I can therefore heartily wish to your missionary enterprise in this country continued vitality and success.

With renewed thanks for the good wishes which you are pleased to express for myself personally, I have, &c.

(Signed) HERCULES ROBINSON.

To the Rev. Joseph Waterhouse,
„ Samuel Brookes,
„ D. S. Wylie.

No. 9.

Sir Hercules Robinson, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(*Received December* 19.)

My Lord, *"Pearl," at Sea, en route to Sydney, October* 18, 1874.

I INCLOSE for your Lordship's information a copy of the letter of instructions which I addressed to Mr. Layard before leaving Fiji, pointing out to him the course which I thought it desirable for him to pursue while acting as my deputy in the temporary administration of the Provisional Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERCULES ROBINSON.

Inclosure in No. 9.

Sir, *Government Buildings, Nasova, October* 14, 1874.

I PROPOSE leaving Fiji if possible to-morrow for New South Wales, and I have accordingly to request that you will, on my departure, assume the administration of the Government of this Colony.

2. As the primary responsibility in all matters connected with the provisional Government, pending the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure as regards the

permanent constitution of the Colony, will devolve upon me, notwithstanding my absence, I have to request that you will keep me informed, by each mail, of all events of importance, and of the general course of public business.

3. I inclose for your information a copy of my Commission as Governor of New South Wales, and of the Royal Instructions which accompanied it. I have to request that you will act upon the clauses in each document, so far as they may be applicable to the circumstances of Fiji.

4. In the event of your death, incapacity, or absence from the Colony, the powers and authorities vested in you will devolve, pending a reference to me, upon the next senior member of the Executive Council present in the Colony.

5. You will be guided, as regards the remission or commutation of all judicial sentences, by the general instructions contained in the clauses noted in the margin,* transmitting to me monthly a return of such remissions or commutations. In the event, however, of yourself and the Executive Council considering that the law, in the case of any capital sentence, should be left to take its course, I have to request that before carrying such sentence into effect you will forward to me a report of the circumstances, and await my instructions in the matter.

6. If circumstances should arise rendering necessary the suspension or dismissal from office of any officer of the Government, you will be guided as far as practicable by the instructions contained in section 2, chapter 4 of the Colonial Rules and Regulations, a copy of which I inclose herewith for your general information and guidance.

7. I shall be glad to receive from you by each monthly San Francisco mail, in addition to such Reports and despatches as you may feel it necessary to transmit to me, a copy of the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive Council, copies of the Government "Gazette," and a monthly statement of all receipts and disbursements on the public account.

8. With a view of supplying you at all times with the services of a reliable interpreter, I have refrained from placing Mr. Wilkinson, the chief interpreter, under any of the Executive Departments of the Government. He will be attached to yourself personally, and, when not required by you, will be available in any branch of the service in which you may from time to time think proper to employ him. I should be glad if he would submit to you some inexpensive scheme for the creation of a staff of efficient interpreters—a want which I believe is at the present time much felt in Fiji in the transaction of both public and private business.

9. As I have already so fully explained verbally in Executive Council the mode in which business is transacted in a Crown Colony, and the relations which should exist between the Administrator and the subordinate members of the Government, I need not go over the same ground here; but in the event of your experiencing difficulty upon any point, I trust you will fully and freely communicate with me. I may add that I am convinced that it would be the desire of the New South Wales Government to assist this new Colony during the difficulties which are inseparable from its establishment by all the means and appliances in its power. I trust, therefore, you will not scruple to intimate to me any wants which it may be in the power of that Government to supply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERCULES ROBINSON.

The Hon. E. L. Layard,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 10.

Sir Hercules Robinson, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(*Received December* 19.)

My Lord, *"Pearl," at sea, en route to Sydney, October* 19, 1874.

ON looking over my despatch of the 16th October,† I find I omitted to notice one item in the estimates upon which I intended to remark.

2. I refer to the appointment of Private Secretary to the Governor for the transaction of the business of Fiji. I found that, so long as the whole correspondence of Fiji passed through my hands, it could not be possible for the work to be conducted by my permanent Private Secretary, whose time is already fully occupied in attending to the business belonging to New South Wales and Norfolk Island. I therefore placed upon the Fiji estimates a sum of 300*l.* a-year, and have appointed provisionally to the

* Commission, clause 6; Instructions, clause 14.

† No. 6.

post Mr. Walter Hely-Hutchinson, who has been so good as to give me so far the benefit of his services gratuitously as Attaché to the special mission.

3. Whenever a permanent Governor is appointed by your Lordship, this amount, or such part of it as may be considered sufficient, will be available for his personal staff.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERCULES ROBINSON.

No. 11.

Sir Hercules Robinson, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(*Received December* 19.)

My Lord, *"Pearl," at Sea, en route to Sydney, October* 20, 1874.

IN my previous despatches* I have reported fully the circumstances attending the unconditional surrender of Fiji to the British Crown, and explained the arrangements which I have in consequence made for the establishment of a Provisional Government. It now only remains for me to offer a few observations upon several further points which call for the early consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

I.—*Pensions.*

2. The principal Chiefs having all been continued during good behaviour as Rokos of Provinces, it is only necessary to consider the cases of Thakombau and the late Chief Justice Mr. Charles St. Julian.

3. Thakombau had been receiving until March last an allowance of 1,500*l.* a-year; but upon the establishment of the *ad interim* Consular Government this allowance was, in consequence of the bankrupt condition of the Treasury, temporarily reduced to 900*l.* a-year, which latter amount I have continued to him pending your Lordship's decision as to his permanent pension. I think that having regard to all the circumstances, Thakombau's great age, over 70, and the manner in which he has unreservedly trusted to the generosity of Her Majesty, this is a case in which it will be politic to act with liberality. I would suggest that Thakombau should receive from the date of cession for the remainder of his life a pension of 1,500*l.* a-year, and a present of 1,000*l.* wherewith to purchase a vessel for his personal use,—a small matter, but one upon which he has set his heart. In the event of his death one-half of his pension, or perhaps two-thirds of it, namely, 1,000*l.* a-year, might be continued to the Queen, Andi Lydia, for her life if she should survive him. The pension might then lapse altogether, unless it were found necessary to continue some small portion of it to any of the three sons who may not at that time be employed in the public service of the Colony. The eldest, Ratu Epeli, is now the Roko of Tai Levu Province, receiving a salary of 340*l.* a-year; but Ratu Timoci is at present dependent on his father, as is Ratu Josefa, the King's youngest son, now about to return to Sydney for the completion of his education.

4. As regards Mr. Charles St. Julian, his health is much broken, and he is past 60 years of age. The office of Chief Justice has been abolished, thereby effecting a saving of 800*l.* a-year. Mr. St. Julian is entirely without means to support himself and his large family of eight children, and it would, under all the circumstances connected with the cession, be, I think, a scandal if a person who held such high office under the previous rule were allowed to become wholly destitute. I recommend, therefore, that a pension of 200*l.* per annum be allowed to Mr. St. Julian for his life, to be paid from the revenues of the Colony.

5. These two pensions are the only payments of this description which I think it necessary to recommend, and, if assented to, they will form an addition to the present authorized provisional expenditure of the Colony of 800*l.* per annum.

II.—*Liabilities.*

6. I have directed the accounts of the former Governments to be closed to the 10th of October, the date of cession; and all then outstanding revenue as it comes in to be applied to the reduction of the obligations unpaid at that date. It will, therefore, be some short time before the precise amount of the liabilities outstanding at the date of cession can be ascertained; but Mr. Thurston has supplied me with an approximate statement of the liabilities computed to the 30th of September, 1874, a copy of which I inclose. This document, although susceptible of alteration to some small extent, is no

* Nos. 2, 4, and 6.

doubt sufficiently accurate for all practical purposes, and will enable Her Majesty's Government to decide the general principles upon which they will be prepared to deal with these obligations. The account shows a total liability of 87,631*l.*, and the various claims may be divided into four classes :—

(1.) Amount due to debenture holders.
(2.) Amount due to Fiji Banking Company.
(3.) Amount due to Government officials and servants for salaries and wages.
(4.) Amount due to merchants and tradespeople for stores and supplies.

7. I observe in the statement that two sums of 665*l.* and 520*l.* for the amount short paid on salaries during the *ad interim* Consular Government are put down amongst the liabilities. But I think these sums should be struck out altogether. The salaries were reduced in March last, because it was estimated by Commodore Goodenough and Mr. Consul Layard that such a step was necessary to bring the expenditure of the Government within the receipts. The necessity for such a step has been proved by the result. Notwithstanding these reductions the revenue has been unequal to the expenditure, and the reductions, which might perhaps have been claimed if the revenue had proved sufficient to cover them, should not now be recognized amongst the liabilities of the Government.

8. As regards the remainder of the claims, it must be borne in mind that they have all accrued since 1871, and that the lenders practically trusted for the repayment of their advances to the success of the so-called Constitutional Government. That experiment has proved a complete failure. The security upon which the money was lent has therefore become valueless, and if the cession of the country had not been accepted by Great Britain, not a fraction of these liabilities would ever have been recovered by the Government creditors. It appears to me, therefore, to be competent for Her Majesty's Government with perfect equity to decide upon the manner in which these liabilities shall be dealt with, and that any amount received by the creditors of the late Government should be looked upon by them as so much recovered of a worthless debt—so much rescued, as it were, from the wreck of a losing venture. Viewed in this light, I do not think that the British Government is in any way called upon to give the creditors of the collapsed Fijian Government the full amount of their claims. For example, the 51,400*l.* of the 10 per cent. Government debentures which is the first item in the list of liabilities only realized 40,502*l.*, whilst the next item on the list, 6,940*l.*, is interest on the nominal debt at 10 per cent. calculated to the 30th ultimo. If the attempt to establish Constitutional Government had proved successful, the creditors might fairly have claimed to be paid according to the letter of their bond; but the experiment having collapsed, it would be preposterous for them now to expect to be paid by Great Britain the risk premium and high rate of interest which they might fairly have claimed if they could have recovered it from the Fijian Government.

9. I would suggest that the four classes into which I have divided the creditors of the late Fijian Government might be dealt with upon the following liberal principles :— Classes 1 and 2, the debenture holders and the bank, might be repaid the amounts actually advanced in each case, with the simple interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum. The arrears of salaries and wages due to Class 3 might, I think, be paid in full without interest; and the commercial and trade accounts found, upon full inquiry, to be due to Class 4, might be paid less 10 or 15 per cent. abatement—the amount charged in such cases being probably based upon a liberal calculation of the risks involved in the transaction.

10. If the accompanying statement of liabilities were adjusted upon this principle the amount of indebtedness would be reduced from 87,631*l.* to about 71,000*l.* or 72,000*l.*

III.—*Fiji Bank Charter.*

11. A copy of this document will be found attached to the report of Commodore Goodenough and Consul Layard already laid before Parliament. The Charter was granted on the 13th of August, 1873, by the King and his Ministers, the Constitution of 1871 being declared in the deed to have been at that time abrogated. The validity of the instrument may therefore, I think, fairly be questioned. It contains also some provisions which are inadmissible in a British Colony, such as a monopoly of banking for fourteen years, and exemption from taxation for a similar period.

12. I venture to recommend, therefore, that this Charter should not be recognized by Her Majesty's Government. The Company might, however, be allowed to retain so much of the 10,000 acres promised to them as they have actually been placed in possession

of, and a charter might be given to them such as is usually granted to Banking Companies in Crown Colonies on their complying with the ordinary conditions.

IV.—*Polynesian Land Company.*

13. The charter to this Company was granted by Thakombau in 1868, and professed, in consideration of 9,000*l.* paid in satisfaction of the American claims, to cede to the Company 200,000 acres of land in Viti Levu, Vanua Levu, and other parts of Fiji. In consideration of a further annual payment of 1,000 dollars, Thakombau promised to the Company a monopoly of banking for twenty-one years and perpetual exemption from taxation. The Company has received about 90,000 acres of land, and now claims the balance of 110,000 acres, with the other rights and privileges specified in the charter. I inclose a copy of a letter which, since my arrival in Fiji, I have received from the Manager of the Company. It must be borne in mind that, when Thakombau executed the Charter, he was only Chief of Mbau, and he had no right or title whatever to cede or deal in any manner with seven-tenths of the land professed to be granted to the Company. Of this the Company appear to have been warned at every step by the British Consul and the Senior Naval Officer on the Station, so that they entered into the speculation with their eyes open, and at their own risk. Of the 90,000 acres which have nominally been handed over, about from 400 to 500 acres only, in Suva Bay, have been actually occupied and cultivated by the Company; and nearly the whole of the valuable portion of the remainder is in the occupation of natives who could not be dispossessed and driven from their homes without great hardship and injustice. Indeed, it is asserted that, without Government support and protection, the Company could not venture to take possession of the greater portion of the 90,000 acres which have nominally been surrendered to them.

14. I would recommend that this Charter should not in any way be recognized as valid by Her Majesty's Government, but that, as the readiest mode of settling this claim, and with a view of preventing annoyance to the native occupiers, an offer should be made to the Company, without prejudice, to repay to them the 9,000*l.* advanced to the American Government, and to leave them in possession of the 400 or 500 acres now in the occupation of the tenants of the Company in the Suva District, and actually under cultivation; the remainder of the 90,000 acres, and all further claims under the Charter, being surrendered to the Colonial Government.

V.—*Titles to Land, European and Native.*

15. This question will not, I venture to think, be so difficult of settlement if it be taken up forthwith before further complications arise out of it. A Commission should at once be appointed to inquire into the merits of each case, and to report upon the validity of European titles, and the extent of the reserves required for the maintenance and support of Chiefs and tribes. I think it would be possible to find persons on the spot competent to undertake such an investigation for a moderate remuneration, and that it might be disposed of within a reasonable time, probably between two and three years, and for a total cost not exceeding about 5,000*l.*

16. The foreign claims to land are about 648 in number, and extend over an area of 854,000 acres, of which only about 16,500 are at present under cultivation. It is generally supposed that a large number of these claims will not bear investigation. In cases, however, in which it can be shown that a fair consideration was given according to the value of the land at the time of the sale, and that all the parties whose assent was necessary to the validity of a transfer were duly represented, and were aware of the nature of the transaction, and of the boundaries of the land professed to be made over; also that the sale was duly registered in one of the Consulates in the manner required by the land regulations of the past, I presume that Her Majesty's Government would recognize the title, and a Crown grant under the Great Seal of the Colony might issue to the occupier, upon his paying a fee towards the expense of the Commission, and a sum estimated upon the probable proportional cost of a general survey of the country.

17, As regards lands in the occupation of natives, the Commission should determine the extent and boundaries of the private properties of the Chiefs, as well as the limits of the reserves necessary to be set apart for the support and maintenance of the native population. Lands so reserved might perhaps be charged with half the cost of survey (as was done in the case of the Temple lands in Ceylon), and no portion of such native reserves should be allowed to be sold or leased without the consent of the Chief of the Qali and the heads of all the families of the tribe, as well as the assent of the

Government. But as the right of the people to the reserve is based upon the supposition of its necessity for their support, a willingness or desire on their part to part with a portion of it would imply that such portion had been unnecessarily reserved, and that the absolute proprietorship of it should have vested in Her Majesty, as provided for in the IVth Article of the Instrument of Cession.

VI.—*Lala or Service Tenures.*

18. Some misapprehension appears to exist in England as to the native tenure of land in Fiji, and it has sometimes been assumed that, because certain services are performed by the people for their Chiefs, the former are in consequence held in a state of domestic slavery. The tenure upon which all native lands in Fiji are held is precisely similar to that which exists to the present day in Ceylon as regards a large proportion of that country, namely, the Nindigamas, or lands of the Chiefs, and the Temple lands—the vast tracts belonging to Buddhist and Hindu temples. Upon all these estates the proprietor pays his wages in land, and the tenant pays his rent in labour. The system, however, is much simpler and less liable to abuse in Fiji than in Ceylon. In Ceylon evils grew out of the undefined nature and extent of the services, which led me to appoint a Commission to define and register all service tenures—a work which has just been satisfactorily completed; but in Fiji legitimate "lala," as it is called, is well defined and recognized by both Chiefs and people. It is, I believe, limited to three services:—1. Assistance in hut building; 2. Aid in the cultivation of the Chief's garden; and 3.—When required for visitors, or on other extraordinary occasions, supplies of food. It appears to me that it would be impolitic on the part of the Government, and unjust towards the Chiefs and the people, to interfere for the present, at all events, with this system, which, on the whole, works well, and is cheerfully acquiesced in by all concerned. For many years to come Fiji can only be governed as a British Colony through the instrumentality of the native Chiefs. The effect of abolishing these service tenures would therefore be to weaken the power of the only subordinate agency available at present for the good government of the country; and the people, freed from existing restraining influences, would give way to their natural improvident and slothful inclinations, and would become, as pointed out by Mr. Thurston in his able and interesting paper on the native ownership of land in Fiji, "useless and perhaps troublesome."

19. I think that when the Land Commission shall have decided on the native reserves that the Chief of every Qali should be acknowledged as the owner of the lands of the Qali, or tribe, and the guardian of the interests of his people in such lands. The people of every Qali should be viewed as tenants of such lands under the chief with hereditary rights of lesseeship, subject to the duties of lessees towards the chief proprietor, to whom they should pay as a head rent for his support such "lala" as may be mutually agreed on in the shape of labour or produce.

VII.—*Mountain Tribes.*

20. The policy to be pursued as regards the mountaineers will be to open up as fast as the available means of the Government will permit, the roads between the mountain villages and the sea-coast.

On a reference to the map which accompanies despatch No. 7, it will be seen that the "Colo," or mountain district is entirely surrounded by the six provinces in Vitu Levu, which may be considered as comparatively civilised, and over each of which a "Roko," or native chief, has been appointed. The mountaineers are not supposed at present to exceed in number about 7,000, and they are believed to be decreasing. As the means of communication with the interior improve, the mountain tribes will gradually follow the example of their maritime neighbours, and accepting christianity and a teacher, acknowledge submission to the Government. In the meantime they may be perhaps a little troublesome to those pioneers who first settle down in their immediate vicinity; but they will never be dangerous. It would at any time be practicable, if necessary, in a few months, and at a very small expense, to march a native force across the country and command their submission. It will be better, however, if possible, to allow this result to be brought about by the improvement in the means of communication and the natural course of events.

21. My time, during the three weeks I was in Fiji, was so fully occupied at first in conducting the negotiations connected with the proposed cession of the country, and subsequently in making the arrangements necessary for the establishment of a Provisional Government, that I have been unable to look as closely as I should have wished

into the details of some of the questions to which I have briefly adverted in this despatch. I have been unable, therefore, to do more than indicate the general principles upon which, in my opinion, these outstanding difficulties may be satisfactorily arranged; and in case Her Majesty's Government should concur in my recommendations, I will conclude by briefly sketching out the mode in which the funds might be raised for carrying my suggestions into effect.

22. I would submit that Parliament might be asked to sanction a loan to Fiji of 100,000*l.*, so as to start the new Colony. The terms might be the same as those on which a quarter of a million sterling was recently offered at my suggestion by the Imperial Government to Ceylon for the improvement of Galle Harbour, namely, in return for a payment of 5 per cent. for thirty years; at the expiration of which time the principal of the debt, as well as the interest upon it, would thus be extinguished. If this were agreed to, 5,000*l.* a year might be made a first charge upon the revenues of the Colony for the next thirty years until the debt were paid off. The security would be undoubted, as the revenue would never be less at starting than 25,000*l.*, and it will probably in a few years be double that amount.

23. The annual expenditure of the Colony would then be as under:—

	£
On account of interest and principal due to Imperial Government	5,000
Estimates as authorized for the year ending 10th October, 1875	17,902
Salary for a Governor, not included in above	1,200
Additional pension to Thakombau, 600*l.*; and pension to Mr. St. Julian, 200*l.* ..	800
	24,902

24. The 100,000*l.* might be applied as follows:—

	£
Liabilities of previous Governments since 1871, say	72,000
Present to Thakombau for purchase of yacht	1,000
Re-payment to Polynesian Company of sum paid by them in satisfaction of American claims	9,000
A steamer for inter-insular communication	5 000
A schooner for the same purpose	3,000
For erection of a temporary wooden Government house	2,000
Land Commission expenses	5,000
	97,000

Leaving a small balance of 3,000*l.*, which might be appropriated to the preliminary expenses of a general survey; a work which would soon become self-supporting by means of survey fees and sales of land. With such a fair start as this loan, so applied, would give to the new Colony, I should have no fear for its future solvency. All improvements, beyond those already provided for, and all increase to establishments and salaries, and all public works, could then be made dependent upon the continued development of the resources of the country, and the consequent improvement of its revenue.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERCULES ROBINSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 11.

May it please your Excellency, *Temple Court, Melbourne, September* 14, 1874.

BY order of the Directors of the Polynesia Company, I have the honour to address your Excellency in relation to the claims of the Company here named.

In the year 1868, the United States being about to take possession of the Fiji Islands for debts due to American citizens, this Company became incorporated, and paid off the American claims in full, amounting to 42,248 dollars, for which valuable and timely service a Charter was granted to this Company by the Fijian King and Chiefs, binding them to hand over forthwith 200,000 acres of good land, and at the same time conferring certain banking and trading privileges, together with exemption from taxation for ever.

Notwithstanding that this Company has long since fulfilled its part of the contract, and made unceasing efforts to get possession of the lands to which it is so justly entitled, it has so far succeeded in getting only 90,000 acres, leaving the balance of 110,000 acres still to be received.

Through the want of good faith on the part of the Fijian authorities, the status and resources of this Company have suffered most severely, while the loss and inconvenience to the shareholders individually have been great and vexatious; so much so, indeed, that

some of them, as British subjects, have been on the point of claiming the protection of the Imperial Government.

Your Excellency having proceeded to the Fijis, with the view of bringing those fine islands under British rule, will doubtless see that the question of annexation is brought to a speedy and happy issue, in which event the Polynesia Company, in addition to receiving the 110,000 acres of land still due to it, will, for a fair consideration in money (to be paid by the new Colony), forego all claims to rights and privileges. But should the Fijis not become a portion of the British Empire, the Company will reserve to itself the right of claiming to the full extent of the Charter.

Trusting that your Excellency will be graciously pleased to confirm the just claims of this Company, I have, &c.

(Signed) GEO. T. WYLEIGH, *Manager.*

His Excellency Sir Hercules Robinson, K.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &.

Inclosure 2 in No. 11.

APPROXIMATE Statement of Liabilities of the Fijian Government, computed to September 30, 1874.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Amount of current debentures—						
1 year	4,500	0	0			
3 years	8,500	0	0			
5 years	38,400	0	0			
				51,400	0	0
Accrued interest on above, calculated to 30th September, 1874	..		..	6,940	0	0
Certificates of indebtedness in circulation—						
4 months	8,669	12	2			
6 months	933	2	7			
12 months	1,794	15	6			
(Natives) 4 months	146	16	5			
				11,544	6	8
Overdraft at Fiji Banking and Commercial Company Treasury note account and interest, calculated to 30th September, 1874	..		..	12,157	16	3
Overdraft at Fiji Banking and Commercial Company, "Consolidated Fund Account," and interest, calculated to 30th September, 1874	..		..	1,197	1	6
Amounts due to intestate estates, viz. :—						
Wm. Burnes	183	3	10			
John Muir	68	7	8			
Wm. Ross	11	14	0			
E. V. Sandilands	63	15	4			
				327	0	10
Amount due to—						
Captain Lyons	..		..	808	7	0
Co-operative Store	..		..	122	0	0
Civil Servants, being one-fifth short paid salaries over 200*l.* ..	..		..	665	0	0
Amount due to Native Governors, being one-fifth short paid on salaries ..	..		..	520	0	0
Estimated amount of public accounts and salaries unpaid	..		..	1,750	0	0
Amount of Treasury notes in circulation	..		..	200	0	0
				87,631	12	3

Summary of Debentures Outstanding.

Currency.	Amounts.	Amount realized.	Remarks.
	£	£	
One year	4,500	3,900	
Three years..	8,500	7,070	
Five years	38,400	29,532	
	51,400	40,502	

One Year Debentures.

Date.	No.	Holder.	Selling Rate.	Amounts.	Amount Realized.	Remarks.
1872.			£	£	£ s.	
Aug. 1	1/25	J. C. Smith	1,500 at 90 1,000 at 95	2,500	2,300 0	Paid and cancelled.
Sept. 20	76/82	G. Hennings ..	Par	700	700 0	Nos. 76 and 80 paid and cancelled.
Dec. 1	26/75	C. L. Sahl	90	5,000	4,555 0	Paid and cancelled.
1873.						
Oct. 22	83/84	D. W. L. Murray ..	Par	200	200 0	Paid and cancelled.
Dec. 24	85/86	Ditto	Par	200	200 0	
Dec. 24	95/96	Ditto	Par	200	200 0	No. 95 paid and cancelled.
Oct. 1	..	Fiji Banking and Commercial Company	85	4,000	3,400 0	Cancelled.
Dec. 1	1/40	Ditto	85	4,000	3,400 0	
				16,800	14,955	
		Less amount paid		12,300		
		Balance outstanding ..		4,500		

Two Years' Debentures.

Date.	No.	Holder.	Selling Rate.	Amounts.	Amount Realized.	Remarks.
1871.			£	£	£ s.	
Dec.	1/5	Dr. Chalmers.. ..	86	500	430 0	Paid and cancelled.
	/35	C. Phillips	86	3,000	2,580 0	Ditto.
		Ditto	86	1,500	1,177 9	Ditto.
				5,000	4,187 9	

Three Years' Debentures.

Date.	No.	Holder.	Selling Rate.	Amounts.	Amount Realized.	Remarks.
1872.			£	£	£ s.	
Dec. 13	101/120	Captain Lyons ..	86	2,000	1,720 0	
1873.						
Mar. 1	1/15	J. S. Macfarlane ..	90	1,500	1,350 0	
Sept. 1	1/50	C. Phillips	80	5,000	4,000 0	
				8,500	7,070 0	

Five Years' Debentures.

Date.	No.	Holder.	Selling Rate.	Amounts.	Amount Realized.	Remarks.
1872			£	£	£	
Dec. 1	1/50	C. L. Sahl	70	5,000	3,500	
	51/100	Ditto	..	5,000	3,500	
	101/150	Ditto	..	5,000	3,500	
	151/158	Wilson and Murchie ..	90	800	720	
	159/161	Ditto	..	300	270	
	162/171	Cancelled	..	..	..	
	172/178	Captain Lyons ..	86	700	602	
	179/180	Cancelled	..	..	..	
	181/183	Wilson and Murchie ..	90	300	270	
	184	W. Berry	..	100	90	
	185/215	C. L. Sahl	70	3,100	2,170	
	216/217	W. Berry	90	200	180	
	218/219	C. L. Sahl	70	200	140	
	220/224	Ditto	..	500	350	
	225/226	Wilson and Murchie ..	90	200	180	
	227/229	W. D. Brewer ..	..	300	270	
	230/241	C. L. Sahl	70	1,200	840	
	242/246	Wilson and Murchie ..	90	500	450	
	1/30	Bank of New Zealand ..	80	15,000	12,500	
				38,400	29,532	

Inclosure 3 in No. 11.

Upon the Native Ownership of Land in Fiji.

THE ownership of land in Fiji, whether absolute or qualified, is based upon well settled law or custom; in some matters of minor detail alone is this law or custom obscure. Since the advent of Europeans, Fijian customs have been slowly altering, old ideas and usages have undergone important changes, and in no respect have they changed so much as in the relations existing between the Chief and his people. It is possible that the rapidity of future changes, if not moderated, may demolish the very basis of Fijian civil or social polity before the principles of modern civilisation can be understood by the native mind. The controlling power of the Chief will be broken down, causing regret and discontent upon his part, while the common people, freed from the only restraining power they have been taught to recognise, will indulge largely in the "luxury of idleness" and become useless, perhaps troublesome.

This possible and highly probable result may be avoided by continuing the relations at present existing between the Chiefs and people in connection with the lands.

Mr. Consul Prichard ("Polynesian Reminiscences," p. 242) says, "all the land purchases effected prior to my arrival in Fiji gave more or less trouble. In those days the natives had not learnt the full effect of the sale of land, its total and final alienation, whenever, as was generally the case, the land was left unoccupied by the purchaser. The natives continued to use it. When in the course of time the purchaser attempted to occupy it the natives resisted, and there was work and trouble for the Consul.

Every inch of land in Fiji has an owner. Every parcel or tract of land has a name, and the boundaries are defined and well-known. The proprietorship rests in families, the heads of families being the representatives of the title. Every member of a family can use the land attaching to the family. Thus the heads of families are the nominal owners, the whole family are the actual occupiers. The family land maintains the whole family, and the members maintain the land of the family. A Chief holds his land under precisely the same tenure as the head of his family, and his personal rights attain only to the land pertaining to his family, in which right every member of his family shares so far as to use any portion of the land. But the Chief is also head of his tribe, and as such certain rights to the whole lands of the tribe appertain to him. The tribe is the family, and the Chief is the head of the family. The families of a tribe maintain the Chief. In war they give him their services and follow him to the fight. In peace they supply him with food.

In this way the whole tribe attains a certain collective interest in all the land held by each family, and every parcel of land alienated contracts the source from which the collective tribal support of the Chief is drawn. From this complicated tenure it is clear that the alienation of land, however large or small the tract, can be made valid only by the collective act of the whole tribe in the persons of the ruling Chiefs and the heads of families. Random and reckless land transactions under those circumstances would be simply another seizure of Naboth's vineyard for which the price of blood would inevitably have to be paid."

Whilst the facts laid down by Mr. Prichard as above quoted are incontestable, there is a loose application of the words "family," "tribe," and "Chief," which it is desirable to avoid. There is no distinction made between Chiefs. In one place it is said "the tribe is the family," and on further "the families of a tribe maintain the Chief," and "the Chief is the head of the family."

It thus appears doubtful whether the reader is to understand that a family is an aggregation of tribes, or that a tribe is an aggregation of families. Neither the tribal system nor the tenure of land is in fact at all complicated, nor even of a novel character.

The people of Fiji are divided into Matanitus and Qalis. The Matanitu is subdivided into Qalis, the Qali being subject to its particular Chief, who with the people are subject to the superior Chief, the Head of the Matanitu, the Head of the tribe.

From long and careful inquiry I am of opinion that the people hold their lands from superior Chiefs, that is to say, from their fathers or their gods (see note) under a feudal system that has existed from time immemorial.

The principles of this system recognise the Supreme Chief as the granter of lands, and leaves the usufruct only (subject to certain conditions) in the hands of the grantee, *i.e.*, the Qali Chiefs and people.

In proof of this conclusion, there are certain evident facts. All Qalis owe either military or domestic service to their Lord or Chief. The former are known as "Batis"—

Mbati; their service is purely military, and they enjoy special privileges among the people.

The Qali-taukei (owner) are most likely families, of whom the head is descended from a branch of the ruling Chief's own family, or, in some cases, is a tribe formerly independent but which unable to so maintain itself amidst the convulsions of barbaric life (one of treachery and warfare) has been compelled to seek the protection of some powerful Chief. It "commended" itself to some such Chief by voluntary submission, the payment of tribute, and render of personal services.

The Qali lewe-ni-kuro are descendants generally of common people who have been placed upon conquered land, lands from which the original occupants have been driven beyond hope of return, or who have been wholly exterminated.

The man of this Qali is a mere "Villein appurtenant." His duty is to plant food for himself and family, but above all for his Chief. He also has charge of his Chief's cattle, pigs, and poultry, and thus provides daily food for the Chief's household; or, when ordered to do so, the materials for a public feast.

In return, he is protected from aggression, and receives a share of the property presented by other Qalis to his master. He may also rightfully use all the land he requires or can cultivate, so long as he renders the domestic services assigned to him; but he may also be removed from the land by the exercise of the power that placed him there.

This last condition is not unlike the Saxon ceorl, described by Palgrave. He and the land might be the subject of gift, but any such gift—as that of North Vanua Balavu, by Tui Kilakila, to Maafu—was, in effect, the disposition of the land with the ceorl, and the services the ceorl performed for the land; the person of ceorl was not the subject of such gift, but only his services.

The people of Bureta, upon the Island of Ovalau, for example, are "Lewe-ni-Kuro" (kitchen men), whose duty it is to find food for the ruling Chief, in return for the occupation of land.

Other families of the tribe, or more properly, other Qalis, which is an association of families, present mats, earthen pots, salt, native cloth, &c., in return for their occupation.

When a "Caboro-Thamboro" (presentation) is made by any Qali, its Mata, or Herald, lays hands upon the offering and says, addressing the Chief: "Mo yalo vinaka mo taura oqo, keimami kila ni lailai. Ia ke lailai ko keimami na kenai kuri ko keimami. Mo yala vinaka mo taura oqo me tawa tiko na nomu vanua."

The meaning of which is: "Be favourably disposed (to us); we know it is little; but if it is little, we are the increasers" (literally, "Let us be the increase," *i.e.*, "Take us and eat us"). "Be favourably disposed (to us); accept this that we may continue to occupy your land."

Should an independent tribe be conquered, the defeated Chief, in his extremity, will send a basket of earth to the victor, thus offering to cede his full undoubted right as Chief and father of his tribe. If accepted, the vanquished are spared, and thenceforward hold their lands under a new Lord.

All these well-established customs point to the fact that the lands belong to the head or ruling Chiefs of the tribes, and are held by his subordinate Chiefs, or vassals, subject to service which is called "lala." This "lala" is equivalent to rent; and, if properly rendered, involves no wrong or unjust principle. If used despotically, it becomes "vaka-saurara," or tyranny.

The one is a recognized right or obligation of Chief and people respectively; the other is not recognized, and, in time, produces upon Fijians the same results as tyranny does among other people: conspiracy and rebellion, with secret murder or open war.

When by loan or gift sub-infeudation occurred under the old Fijian laws, the ruling Chief lost none of his seignorial rights. There existed an unwritten law quite as good as the old Statute "Quia Emptores."

Thus, many years ago, before Fiji was known to Europeans, a number of Malayo-Polynesians drifted to the Island of Nairai. They are supposed to have been Tongans, and are known to this day as "Kai Wai Tonga," which perhaps means men from Tongan water or Tongan Sea. The Chief at that time ruling at Bau gave these people land at Na Korobamba (Nairai Island), and they were "adopted" by, or amalgamated with, the tribe, as many other bands of Tongan or Samoan refugees have been adopted.

The "Kai Wai Tonga" took wives, rendered service to the Chief for their lands, and became subject to the "Patria Potestas" as absolutely as if they had been natural-born Fijians, and so their descendants remain to the present time. Many other instances of a similar nature could be given. White men were "adopted" in the early days of

their settlement either for the sake of the wealth they brought to the tribe as petty traders, for the personal use they were to the Chiefs as mechanics, or on account of their superior craft and boldness in politics and war. Two men, one the antithesis of the other, may be cited as examples. One, Charles Savage, a Swede by birth, who led King Tanoas armies, a reckless, cruel, profligate man, a terror to the enemies of Bau, and a pillar of strength to its Chief. He was adopted by the King for the services he rendered, and for those only. The other, Mr. David Whippy, settled down in Fiji about the year 1820-22. He was a man of firm yet mild temperament, sagacious to a high degree at Fijian Councils, and respected by natives and whites alike as a shrewd trustworthy man.

For many years he lived at Levuka, holding the position of Mata-ki-Bau, an important post in those days. He assumed also (among the Fijians only), a native name. David Whippy was thus "adopted" by the tribe, and, it would appear, for the sake of the services he rendered.

At this period it seems that food, land, and women, were given "upon demand" to white men, who thus, by the fiction of adoption, were admitted into the tribe. The act of parting with land does not appear to have carried with it any perception of the meaning conveyed by the words "grant, bargain, and sell." It seems to have been no more than an intention to convey the usufruct during the grantees residence in the tribe, or perhaps for his lifetime. The idea of selling large blocks of land in fee simple, whereby the ruling Chief lost his seignorial rights, has only been acquired gradually, and since the steady influx of Europeans commenced.

None, or very few, of these old grants have been questioned, probably because land, and not people, has always been in excess, and, therefore, the descendants of the first settlers may reasonably claim to hold their estates by prescriptive right. Nevertheless, it may be safely assumed that the act of conveying land to an European and his assigns, "for ever," was a thing not understood twenty years ago. All evidence tends to show that the lands of Fiji are vested in the ruling Chiefs of tribes, and occupied by their subordinate Chiefs (or vassals) and people, in consideration for past, present, and future services. While the Ruling Chief has the right, and also the power (or he does not rule) to remove at pleasure any sub-Chief and people from the lands they occupy, I am of opinion that, though submitted to, such action of removal would be regarded as an act of gross injustice, if there had been no failure upon the part of such subordinate Chiefs and people to perform the services required of them. The rule adopted with reference to this matter by Her Britannic Majesty's Consular Officers, and closely observed, so far as I am aware, from 1859 to the present date, is, I believe, a strictly just one. By that rule I do not think any subordinate Fijian landholder or occupant can, or should, alienate land without the consent of the Ruling Chief, inasmuch as the Chief holds most important rights in respect to such land, the loss of which would seriously affect his position in regard to other Chiefs, and possibly render him unable to perform certain obligations due by him to other families of the tribe; nor, on the other hand, do I think the Ruling Chief should alienate land, except with the consent of the occupants, so long as they (the occupants) render the services demanded by their Chief, and sanctioned by immemorial usage and custom.

Note.—Their fathers or their Gods.—It may not be out of place in connection with the above memoraudum to advance one or two facts with the object of showing that the head of the tribe, *i.e.*, its highest living male ascendant, was regarded as its father. He held absolute authority over the persons, property, and lives of his people, and both before and after death had the same reverence shown to him as to a God.

The Fijian language makes no distinction, in terms, between the marks of respect and reverence rendered to a Chief and those rendered to a God. I will select a few words, with their meanings, from Hazelwood's Fijian Dictionary. "1. Tama—a father. 2. Tama-ka—To reverence, to clap hands, or to make some expression of a God or Chief. 3. Cabora—To offer or present property to a God or to a Chief. 4. Ai sevu—The first dug yams, the first fruits, which are generally offered to the Gods and given to a Chief of a place. 5. Tauvu, and Veitauvu—Literally, to have the same root, or sprung from the same source; used of people who worship the same God: 'they are allowed to swear at and take each others property.'" This last word (Veitauvu) points to something more than "springing from the same stock." In connection with the highly elaborate Fijian system of relationship, which resembles in almost every particular that of the Seneca, Iroquois, and other American Indians, on the one hand, and that of the people of South India speaking the Dravidian language (Tamil) on the other, it points to a bygone

existence of the communal family, a state now regarded with horror and disgust, and forbidden by stringent and elaborate laws.

"Veitauvu" are descended from the same communal family, they have the same fathers, or, in other words, the same Gods; they may, as communists, take each others property, and may swear at each other, or, rather, at each others fathers. Between those people, not being Veitauvu, who swear at each others fathers, there is only one issue—the club. The reason why Veitauvu may swear at each other is this, that inasmuch as the ancestors sworn at are their common ancestors no harm will come of it, so they swear at each other with impunity. But to swear at the ancestors of another man or tribe, is an insult for which life only can atone.

The swearing of Fijians is like that of the High Asiatic peoples. Two men quarrelling never swear at each other personally, nor even utter their respective names; they will curse their fathers, their grandfathers, and their most remote ancestry. The reason being that to curse a Fijian's father is to curse his God. The highest living male ascendant of the tribe is the highest living representation of the Gods; he is invested with extreme power, and held worthy of extreme reverence. The successive stages of authority among the Fijian people is first, that of the individual family; secondly, the association of many families, which constitute the Qali; and thirdly, the union of these Qalis, under their recognized hereditary Chief, which constitutes the Matanitu. It is the Family, Gens, and Tribe of early history found extant, and as a system still closely observed in Polynesia at the present day.

Fiji, April 6, 1874.

No. 12.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Sir H. Robinson, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, December* 24, 1874.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 18th of October,* forwarding a copy of an Address which was presented to you before leaving Levuka, on behalf of the Wesleyan missionaries in Fiji, together with a copy of your reply.

I notice with pleasure the appreciation of the labours of this Mission which is expressed in your reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 13.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Sir H. Robinson, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, December* 24, 1874.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 17th of October.†

I have perused with satisfaction the notes which you have forwarded of your friendly interview, on the 15th of October, with Thakombau and the other principal Chiefs, on the occasion of your leaving the Islands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 14.

The Ear of Carnarvon to Sir H. Robinson, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, December* 24, 1874.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches of the 11th of October‡ on the subject of the formal cession of Fiji to the British Crown and the presentation of King Thakombau's war-club to Her Majesty.

Copies of these despatches have been duly laid before the Queen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

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* No. 8. † No. 7. ‡ Nos. 4 and 5.

No. 15.

Admiralty to Colonial Office.

Sir, *Admiralty, January* 13, 1875.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Earl of Carnarvon, the copy of a letter from Commodore Goodenough, Senior Naval Officer in Australia, submitting certain observations on the revenue and expenditure of Fiji, with reference to a remark made by Lord Carnarvon in a debate in the House of Lords in July last.

It is requested that the inclosures to this letter, viz., a copy of the "Fiji Government Gazette" of 18th November, 1874, and an extract from the "Fiji Government Gazette" of 14th October, may be returned when done with.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 15.

Sir, *"Pearl," at Sydney, November* 18, 1874.

IN a debate on the annexation of Fiji to Great Britain, as a Colony, which took place in the House of Lords on Friday, the 17th July, 1874, the Secretary of State for the Colonies is reported to have said :—

"The calculations of the Commissioners are not as satisfactory as I could have desired. In fact, I think they are illusory."

I therefore trust that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty will afford me an opportunity of showing that the calculations which were made by me and Mr. Layard as to the future revenue and expenditure of Fiji, though not intended to be more than a rough sketch of the probable financial state of the future Colony, were not "misleading," and still less, as I humbly think, "illusory."

2. I inclose papers showing the actual receipts into, and expenditure out of, the Fijian Treasury for the six months ending September 30, 1874, and also Sir Hercules Robinson's estimate for the first year's expenditure of Fiji as a Colony.

3. It will be seen that Sir Hercules Robinson, while taking the same estimate of receipts from Customs as myself and Mr. Layard, also calculates upon receiving 4,500*l.* in money for native taxes, in addition to labour contributed and not commuted.

4. Bearing in mind that the estimate of Mr. Layard and myself was one for the probable few first years, while Sir Hercules Robinson's is for the very first year, also that the revenue collected from March to September of this year (1874) was paid in at a period of the greatest possible commercial depression and scarcity of money, I think that the papers I inclose justify a more favourable view of the finances of the new Colony of Fiji than Lord Carnarvon has taken.

5. I observe in the earlier part of the speech of the Secretary of State that Lord Carnarvon states that Lord Kimberley "sent out the two Commissioners whose Report is now on the table."

Their Lordships are aware that I was already on my way to assume the naval command on this station, and that Mr. Layard was designated as Her Majesty's Consul at Fiji and Tonga, when we were requested to meet and to report on the condition of Fiji. Though the distinction is otherwise unimportant, yet I venture to draw attention to it, and to hope that the fact of our having endeavoured to perform a duty confided to us, out of our immediate sphere of action, to the best of our ability, may procure us the indulgence of Her Majesty's Government, who will, I trust, put a favourable interpretation on our proceedings.

6. I request that this letter may be added to the papers on Fiji presented to Parliament.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAMES G. GOODENOUGH,
Captain and Commodore, 2nd Class, Commanding Australian Station.

The Secretary of the Admiralty.

Inclosure 2 in No. 15.

The "Fiji Government Gazette" of October 8, 1874.

STATEMENT of Revenue and Expenditure for the Half-year from 1st April to 30th September, 1874.

RECEIPTS.

To—	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs duties (1,977*l.* 15*s.*, Treasury Notes)				5,675	11	5
Shipping dues				300	7	3
Land taxes				68	6	0
Native taxes—						
North Viti Levu	1,126	9	9			
East „	825	14	9			
South „	324	15	10			
North Vanua Levu	703	0	3			
Central	267	6	0			
Kadavu	419	16	6			
Lau	426	15	11			
Cakaudrovi	54	8	0			
				4,148	7	0
Fees and fines—						
Supreme Court	196	16	8			
Warden's Court	182	14	0			
Provincial Courts	118	4	6			
				497	15	2
Wine and spirit licenses (74*l.* due to the Municipality)				354	0	0
Postal and stamp duties				121	12	7
Labour fees				81	17	0
Miscellaneous revenue				717	5	10
Convict labour fees				182	10	0
Sheriff's fees				4	2	0
Royal Lands Commission				22	16	0
				12,174	10	3
Balance of cash account on 31st March, 1874				3,527	19	6
Fiji Banking and Commercial Company (Limited), overdraft, 30th September, 1874				1,417	3	5
Bank of New South Wales, cheques drawn				40	5	0
„ New Zealand „				102	0	0
				17,261	18	2

EXPENDITURE.

By—	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Civil List—						
Privy Purse	450	0	0			
Chief Justice	300	0	0			
Associated Judge	200	0	0			
Native Judge	60	0	0			
Chief Secretary	200	0	0			
Treasurer	200	0	0			
Attorney-General	180	0	0			
				1,590	0	0
Works—						
Printing	105	5	0			
Housekeeper at Government offices	75	0	0			
Incidentals	35	5	0			
Rent of public offices	75	0	0			
Repairs to buildings	83	2	10			
Furniture and stores	11	2	0			
				384	14	10
Chief Secretary—						
Salaries	200	0	0			
Medical Officer	75	0	0			
Stationery	43	1	2			
Incidentals	24	16	0			
				342	17	2
Postal—						
Salaries	100	0	0			
Incidentals	17	19	0			
				117	19	0

EXPENDITURE—*continued.*

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d
Judicial—						
Registrar	120	0	0			
Sheriff	106	13	4			
Clerk of the Peace	100	0	0			
Judges' Associate	75	0	0			
Interpreter	75	0	0			
Jury and witness' fees	16	17	0			
Incidentals	9	10	0			
Circuit expenses	40	4	10			
Coronor's fees	2	2	0			
				545	7	2
Police and Penal—						
Clerk	50	0	0			
Gaoler	90	0	0			
Sub-Inspector of Police	75	0	0			
Constables	119	18	11			
Native Constables	13	17	0			
Rations (yams, kumalas, &c.)	167	8	6			
Incidentals	72	15	9			
				589	0	2
Provinces—						
East Viti Levu (salaries)	328	10	8			
South ditto	306	8	8			
North ditto	253	4	8			
Cakaudrovi	180	0	0			
North Vanua Levu	240	2	0			
Kadavu	120	0	0			
Lau	96	13	4			
				1,524	19	4
General Expenses—						
Governors' salaries	515	0	0			
Repairs to boats, &c.	124	16	5			
Native Revenue Collectors	32	16	0			
Incidentals	76	5	7			
Stationery	32	14	6			
				781	12	6
Armed Constabulary, Head Quarters and Levoni—						
Salaries	409	7	9			
Officers' mess allowance	106	13	5			
Constables, rations (yams, &c.)	299	14	5			
Incidentals (passages, &c.)	134	16	11			
				950	12	6
Finance—						
Accountant, salary	100	0	0			
Incidentals, exchange on Chilian gold, drafts, &c.	26	18	0			
				126	18	0
Trade and Commerce—						
Collector	100	0	0			
Harbour Master	100	0	0			
Clerk and Locker	75	0	0			
Boarding Officers	150	0	0			
Incidentals	43	9	0			
				468	9	0
General Incidentals, per monthly statements				651	4	1
				8,073	13	9
Treasury notes redeemed				1,977	15	0
Local debentures, redeemed				80	0	0
Outstanding liabilities on 31st March, 1874, since paid				5,226	1	10
Rebate Customs duties	25	0	1			
Refund spirit licenses to Corporation	200	0	0			
Ten per cent. paid on Certificates of Indebtedness	460	10	0			
Old overdraft King's privy purse	207	0	0			
Promissory notes dishonoured, formerly included in cash balance, 31st March, 1874	304	3	2			
Drafts on Sydney, dishonoured, recoverable	289	13	6			
Bank, New South Wales	60	0	0			
Fiji Bank, on account old overdraft	68	10	0			
Co-operative store, partial payment	289	10	10			
				1,904	7	7
				17,261	18	2

OUTSTANDING LIABILITIES ACCOUNT.

Dr.	£	s.	d.		Cr. £	s.	d.
To Certificates of Indebtedness—				By amounts due for salaries, stores, &c.,			
At 4 months date	9,738	11	6	on 31st March, 1874	12,466	9	7
„ 6 „	933	2	7				
„ 12 „	1,794	15	6				
	12,466	9	7		12,466	9	7

SUMMARY.

Dr. To—	£	s.	d.	By—	Cr. £	s.	d.
Receipts, per detailed statement ..	12,174	10	3	Expenditure, per detailed statement .	8,073	13	9
				Treasury Notes, redeemed ..	1,977	15	0
				Local Debentures, redeemed ..	80	0	0
				Balance cash on hand	2,043	1	6
	12,174	10	3		12,174	10	3
Balance cash on hand	2,043	1	6	Outstanding liabilities on 31st March, since paid	5,226	1	10
Balance cash on hand 31st March, 1874	3,527	19	6	Sundry payments, per detailed statement .. .. —	1,904	7	7
Bank, New Zealand	102	0	0				
Bank, New South Wales	40	5	0				
Overdraft Fiji Banking and Commercial Company, 30th September, 1874	1,417	3	5				
	7,130	9	5		7,130	9	5

Audited and adopted in Council, this 8th day of October, 1874.

(Signed) RUPERT RYDER, *Treasurer*

Inclosure 3 in No. 15.

Extract from the "Fiji Government Gazette" of October 14, 1874, promulgated by his Excellency Sir Hercules Robinson, Governor.

Estimated Revenue and the Authorized Expenditure of the Provisional Colonial Government of Fiji, from 10th October, 1874.

Branch of Service.

For year ending October 10, 1875—	£	s.	d.
Customs duties	15,000	0	0
Pilotage and light dues	300	0	0
Licenses on interinsular trading crafts and on harbour boats plying for hire..	300	0	0
Native taxes—			
Native labour	4,500	0	0
Imported labour	1,500	0	0
Fees and fines of Courts	750	0	0
Licenses to Polynesian immigrant vessels	200	0	0
Wines and spirit licenses	750	0	0
Auctioneers' licenses	75	0	0
Miscellaneous	500	0	0
Total	23,875	0	0

Authorized Expenditure for the Year ending 10th October, 1875, unless sooner amended by order of Her Majesty's Government.

I.—*Executive.*

	£	s.	d.
1. His Excellency the Governor	—		
2. The Administrator of the Government	—		
3. Pension to Tui Viti (Thakombau)	900	0	0
4. Colonial Secretary	400	0	0
5. Colonial Treasurer	400	0	0
6. Secretary for Native Affairs	400	0	0
7. Chief Interpreter to the Government	300	0	0
8. Private Secretary to his Excellency the Governor	300	0	0
9. Clerk to the Executive Council	200	0	0

II.—*Judicial.*

	£	s.	d.
1. Judge of Central Court and Chief Magistrate	500	0	0
2. Native Judge	120	0	0
3. Public Prosecutor and Legal Adviser to Government	250	0	0
4. Registrar and Sheriff	240	0	0
5. Interpreter and Judge's Clerk	150	0	0
6. Clerk of Petty Sessions, Police Court	150	0	0

III.—*Colonial Secretary's Office.*

1. Two clerks	400	0	0
2. Medical officer	150	0	0
3. Housekeeper and Overseer of Stores and Works	150	0	0

IV.—*Postal.*

1. Postmaster	250	0	0
2. Native messenger	10	8	0

V.—*Police.*

1. Superintendent	200	0	0
2. Sub-Inspector	150	0	0
3. Clerk	100	0	0
4. 5. One European sergeant and three European constables	400	0	0
6. 200 native constabulary of all ranks, rations	600	0	0

VI.—*Gaols.*

1. Gaoler, Levuka	180	0	0
2. Warder	90	0	0
3. Gaoler, Lovoni (without rations)	150	0	0

VII.—*Treasury.*

1. Accountant	200	0	0

VIII.—*Customs.*

1. Collector	200	0	0
2. Harbour master	200	0	0
3. Clerk and bond keeper	150	0	0
4. Boarding officer	150	0	0
5. Ditto	150	0	0
6. Lightkeeper	50	0	0

IX.—*Native Affairs.*

1. Four Stipendiary Magistrates at 240*l.* (see Schedule A in Appendix)	960	0	0
2. Clerk to Secretary for Native Affairs	200	0	0
3. Twelve provincial Chiefs—Rokos (see Schedule B in Appendix)—			
One at 600*l.*	600	0	0
One at 360*l.*	360	0	0
One at 340*l.*	340	0	0
One at 240*l.*	240	0	0
Two at 220*l.*	440	0	0
Three at 200*l.*	600	0	0
One at 140*l.*	140	0	0
Two at 100*l.*	200	0	0
	2,920	0	0
4. Allowance to Adi Kuila	100	0	0
5. Twelve native Stipendiary Magistrates at 24*l.* (see Schedule C in Appendix)	288	0	0
6. Eighty-two bulis (see Schedule D in Appendix), as follows—			
Thirty-one at 10*l.*	310	0	0
Thirty-five at 5*l.*	175	0	0
Twenty at 3*l.*	60	0	0
	545	0	0
7. Coxswain and messenger to Secretary for Native Affairs	75	0	0
8. Immigration Agent and Protector of imported labourers	240	0	0

EXCLUSIVE OF SERVICES ESTABLISHMENTS.

X.—*Judicial.*

1. Jury fees and witnesses' expenses in Crown cases	100	0	0
2. Incidentals	10	0	0

XI.—*Colonial Secretary's Office.*

1. Stationery for all Departments except Native Affairs	200	0	0
2. Hospital fees	25	0	0
3. Coroner's fees	20	0	0
4. Incidentals	25	0	0

XII.—*Works.*

	£	s.	d.
1. Printing	250	0	0
2. Rent of public offices	300	0	0
3. Inclosing and keeping in order cemetery	100	0	0
4. Repairs to buildings	200	0	0
5. Incidentals, stores, &c.	160	0	0
6. Material for lighting and repairs to streets and bridges in Levuka	300	0	0

XIII.—*Police.*

1. Rations for 200 men, clothing and allowances	1,600	0	0
2. Travelling expenses for police and prisoners	20	0	0
3. Travelling expenses of Superintendent, at 7*s.* 6*d.* per diem	35	0	0

XIV.—*Gaols.*

1. Rations for prisoners	200	0	0
2. Incidentals	20	0	0

XV.—*Treasury.*

1. Incidentals	50	0	0

XVI.—*Customs and Harbour Master's Office.*

1. Two boats' crews at 12*l.*	24	0	0
2. Rations for same	30	0	0
3. Flags, Sykes' hydrometer, gauging rods, &c., scale, platform, and incidentals	100	0	0
4. Buoys for mail steamer	50	0	0

XVII.—*Native Affairs.*

1. Travelling expenses for Secretary for Native Affairs, at 7*s.* 6*d.* per diem	35	0	0
2. Travelling expenses for four Stipendiary Magistrates, at 7*s.* 6*d.* per diem	200	0	0
3. Four boats' crews for Magistrates and repairs to boats	150	0	0
4. Boat's crew for Secretary	30	0	0
5. Stationery and incidentals	100	0	0
Total	17,902	8	0

SUMMARY.

Total establishments	13,558	8	0
Total exclusive of establishments	4,334	0	0
Total estimate of expenditure	17,902	8	0

No. 16.

Admiralty to Colonial Office.

Sir, *Admiralty, January* 13, 1875.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Earl of Carnarvon, the copy of a letter from Commodore Goodenough, Senior Naval Officer, in Australia, submitting observations on certain remarks made by Mr. Lowther in a speech made in the House of Commons in August last, with reference to the action of Commodore Goodenough and Mr. Layard as Commissioners for inquiry into the condition of Fiji.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 16.

Sir, *"Pearl," Sydney, November* 18, 1874.

IN the debate on the annexation of the Fiji Islands to Great Britain, which took place in the House of Commons on 4th August, 1874, I observe that Mr. Lowther, Under Secretary for the Colonies, is reported to have said—

"But with regard to the question of the acceptance of the cession of the Fiji Islands upon the terms suggested by Commodore Goodenough and Mr. Layard, he would say at once that it was out of the question.

"The Commissioners in the first place sought to commit us without further inquiry

to the acceptance of the debt, which was estimated at 87,000*l.*, but we had no guarantee that it would not exceed that amount."

2. I have carefully looked again through the report made by myself and Mr. Layard, and I request that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty will be pleased to place it upon record, that neither I nor Mr. Layard either "suggested terms" or "sought to commit Her Majesty's Government, without further inquiry, to the acceptance of the debt."

3. We were neither instructed to suggest terms, nor to make promises, and we studiously avoided doing anything which might be construed into an acceptance of terms or obligations by King Cakobau or his Ministers. That this is the case is shown by the fact that although we pointed to the Secretary of State various points in which requests, made by Mr. Thurston on behalf of the Chiefs and Government, were impracticable, yet we allowed Mr. Thurston, without comment, to limit the period of the reply of Her Majesty's Government to one year.

4. The Under Secretary for the Colonies does not appear to have borne in mind the nature of our instructions. These were not only to ascertain what the Chiefs looked forward to as their future position and allowances, but also to inquire what were the recommendations of Ministers on this subject. In accordance with this part of our instructions we called upon Mr. Thurston to give us his recommendations upon this point. We also requested Cakobau to desire Mr. Thurston to put on paper his own wishes.

5. When Mr. Thurston came to us, as we reported in our letter to the Secretary of State of the 18th March, 1874, we informed him that we thought his demands absurd. This was the first time that they had appeared on paper, but Mr. Thurston had before advanced notions which showed that he had far more extravagant ideas than these.

I had been repeatedly asked by him "What are the Chiefs to get by giving up their country?" and I as constantly replied "Nothing; but relief from a charge which they cannot support."

6. Had we then suggested terms in opposition to or correction of Mr. Thurston's, we should have done precisely what Mr. Lowther says we did, but which we did not do, viz., "commit Her Majesty's Government without further inquiry;" and I beg to submit that our only course was to do that which we did, viz., to transmit the whole to Her Majesty's Government. We, of course, knew, that if Her Majesty's Government accepted any offer of cession, it would take upon itself the responsibility of dealing with the debt, with all other responsibilities attached to a governing Power.

7. I have elsewhere remarked observations tending to show that the Secretary of State believed that we had accepted an offer of cession, pending Her Majesty's decision. We accepted no offer—I was most careful in my own name and that of Mr. Layard, to say to the Chiefs and their Agent, Mr. Thurston, that I received their offer of cession for transmission to Her Majesty's Government—I and Mr. Layard repeatedly told both the Chiefs and Mr. Thurston that we had no power whatever; that Her Majesty's Government knew very little of Fiji, and wished us to enquire about it, and that the only interest felt by Her Majesty's Government in Fiji was that law and order should prevail there under some form of Government.

8. I would then point out that, in our report, so far from "suggesting terms," or "committing Her Majesty's Government without further enquiry," we criticised some of the Articles of the terms suggested, not by us, but by Mr. Thurston. We gave an opinion on others; while we did not think it necessary to make remarks on some which were manifestly impracticable.

9. I would further remark that I never thought it necessary to say that I was aware that nothing therein could be considered in the least final or binding; it will be seen that we spoke of Mr. Thurston's "terms" always as requests and recommendations, and never dreamt that they could be accepted in the form in which they were placed.

10. I think that their Lordships will see that we confined ourselves to our instructions while acting under them; and I request that this letter may be added to those already laid before Parliament, on the subject of the annexation of the new Colony of Fiji.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAMES G. GOODENOUGH,

Captain and Commodore, 2nd Class, Commanding Australian Station.

The Secretary of the Admiralty.

No. 17.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Sir Hercules Robinson, G.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, January* 16, 1875.

I HAVE deferred any general reply to your despatches (which have been duly acknowledged in the usual manner) giving an account of your proceedings in Fiji, and the steps taken by you for receiving the cession of the islands, and establishing in them a provisional Government, until I should have been made fully acquainted, as I am by your later communications, with all details. Those which have now been received by the last mail appear to me to complete, as far as possible, the history of past transactions, and of the arrangements which you think may suffice until a duly constituted Colonial Government can be established.

2. I have already conveyed to you the Queen's gracious approval of the manner in which you have executed the responsible mission for which you were selected, and I have notified to you by telegraph that Her Majesty has been pleased to mark her sense of the service thus rendered by you by promoting you to the Grand Cross of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

3. I at the same time acquainted you that Her Majesty had been pleased to recognize the special services of Mr. Innes, the Attorney-General of New South Wales, who accompanied you to Fiji, by conferring upon him a knighthood.

4. I have on a previous occasion expressed my sense of the readiness with which your Ministers have on all occasions endeavoured to assist you in carrying out your instructions; and it would not be right for me to omit to refer to the valuable services rendered by Mr. Consul Layard and Commodore Goodenough during the difficult period which intervened between the presentation of their Report and the cession of Fiji.

5. Your account of your transactions with Thakombau and the other Chiefs is very clear and satisfactory, and I fully approve of the explanations afforded by you as to the terms on which only Her Majesty's Government could consent to accept the cession. The Articles, also, of the Instrument of Cession appear fully to meet the requirements of the case.

6. The provision which you made for the temporary administration of the Government was doubtless as complete as circumstances permitted, and I trust that the provisional establishment may prove adequate to the requirements of the period which must elapse before a more efficient Government can be constituted, but which I am endeavouring to make as short as possible.

7. I have pleasure in acquainting you that the Queen has been pleased to appoint the Honourable Sir Arthur H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to be the first Governor of Fiji. Sir Arthur Gordon's ability, and his administrative experience in Colonies in which the coloured inhabitants form a large majority of the population, will, I doubt not, qualify him in a special degree for the work of organizing the new Government. He will probably sail for Fiji early in March next.

8. It is perhaps possible that on the expiration of his term of government the administration of affairs in Fiji will be found to be so well established as to permit of the Colony being entrusted to a Governor of less high standing, and that some economy in the salary of the Governor may consequently be effected; but I am satisfied that there could be no greater mistake than to commit to weak or inexperienced hands the solution of such difficult questions as those which will have to be met at the outset in taking over the new dependency of Fiji.

9. For the same reason, while I am obliged to you for the careful estimate which you have made of the probable revenue of the Colony, and for your calculations of the administrative staff which may be provided without exceeding that estimate, I do not think that, when once the present provisional administration is replaced by a permanent one, the salaries which you have mentioned would suffice to secure the services of competent Civil Officers. I am most desirous to ensure all practicable economy, but when I reflect that every Department has to be created and organised on proper principles, and that, in the first instance if possible more than ever, high character and ability are indispensable in those who are to hold the principal appointments, I cannot but feel that there would be little hope of procuring really effective service from persons receiving much smaller remunerations than are given in similar cases in Australia or other Colonies.

10. I apprehend, therefore, that some increase upon your estimate of the cost of the Civil Establishment is inevitable; and indeed I assume that your calculations have been in a great degree governed by the opinion that the administration of affairs in Fiji might

be placed under the surveillance of the Governor of New South Wales, and would in that case be less dependent upon the efficiency of the local staff,—a course which, as you are now aware, is not contemplated by Her Majesty's Government.

11. I have, in conclusion, to thank you for your careful examination of the difficult questions connected with the liabilities of Fiji, the titles to land, and other special points which have to be dealt with. These subjects are receiving my careful consideration, and I shall in due course give such instructions to Sir A. Gordon as may be requisite.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

of Fiji, [illegible] ession [illegible] range-
ments made for Administering the Government.

(In continuation of Command Paper 1011, July 1874.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty. February 6, 1875.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.

CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

COLONY OF FIJI.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
August 6, 1875.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS,
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1876.

[C.—1337.] *Price 7d.*

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Correspondence respecting the Colony of Fiji.

No. 1.

Governor Sir H. Robinson, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—
(*Received January* 11, 1875.)

My Lord, *Government House, Sydney, November* 20, 1874.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that, on the 18th instant, I received a deputation representing the mercantile interest of Sydney, who presented me with a petition, a copy of which I inclose.

2 The petition is signed by some of the principal merchants of Sydney, and sets forth that the petitioners have been engaged in trade with the Fijis, and have respectively debts due to them by divers persons there resident. It points out the injustice which would result by the adoption of clause 4 of the Provisional Code for the administration of justice, which directs that no proceedings or suits shall be instituted in the Colony to recover any claims accrued prior to the 1st of January, 1871. The petitioners, in consequence, submit that the British law relating to the limitation of actions should be allowed to operate in that Colony.

3. Having ascertained from the Attorney-General of New South Wales, who had drafted the code, that the limitation had been inserted by him without a full knowledge of the facts of the case, and that the application for the extension of the time from the 1st of January, 1871, to the 1st of January, 1869, was reasonable, and might with propriety be acceded to, I issued an amending Proclamation, to be published in the "Fiji Gazette," of which a copy is inclosed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERCULES ROBINSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Petition addressed to Sir Hercules Robinson, in his capacity as Provisional Governor of Fiji, by some of the leading merchants of Sydney, on the 18*th of November*, 1874.

To his Excellency Sir Hercules George Robert Robinson, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Governor, Commander-in-chief, and Vice-Admiral of the Colony of New South Wales and its dependencies, and, provisionally, Governor of Fiji.

May it please your Excellency,

WE, the undersigned citizens of the city of Sydney, having been engaged in trade with the Fiji Islands, and who have respectively debts due to us by divers persons there resident, beg most respectfully to draw the attention of your Excellency to the injustice which would result by the adoption of Clause 4 of the proposed Constitution of the Colony of Fiji, which reads as follows:—"That no proceeding or suit shall be brought or instituted in any Court in this Colony to recover any sum of money on any cause of action accrued prior to the 1st of January, 1871;" and beg humbly to submit that the British law relating to the limitation of actions should be allowed to operate in that Colony, otherwise the undersigned will, as they respectfully submit, be most unfairly prejudiced.

We are, &c.
(Signed) M'DONALD, SMITH AND Co.
(And 23 others.)

Sydney, November 11, 1874.

If it was not made a condition of the cession that this clause should be inserted in the Constitution, I concur in this appeal.

(Signed) SHEPHERD SMITH.
(And 9 others.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

[Fiji to wit.]
(L.S.) HERCULES ROBINSON, *Governor.*

Proclamation by Sir Hercules George Robert Robinson, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Governor, Commander-in-chief, and Vice-Admiral of the Colony of New South Wales and its dependencies, Governor of Norfolk Island, and, provisionally, Governor of the Colony of Fiji.

WHEREAS, by a Proclamation dated the 13th day of October, 1874, it was amongst other things directed and proclaimed, pending the notification of Her Majesty's pleasure as therein provided, that no proceeding or suit shall be brought or instituted in any Court in this Colony to recover any sum of money on any cause of action accrued prior to the 1st of January, 1871:

And whereas it is expedient to extend the period in the said recited clause prescribed for the limitation of proceedings or suits as therein mentioned.

Now, therefore, I, Sir Hercules George Robert Robinson, the Governor aforesaid, do hereby direct and proclaim that the said clause shall be, and the same is hereby repealed, and that in lieu thereof the following clause shall stand as Clause 4 of the said hereinbefore recited Proclamation:—

"That no proceeding or suit shall be brought or instituted in any Court in this Colony to recover any sum of money on any cause of action accrued prior to the 1st of January, 1869."

Given under my hand and seal at Sydney, this 18th day of November, in the year of our Lord 1874, and in the thirty-eighth year of Her Majesty's reign.

By his Excellency's command.

God save the Queen!

No. 2.

The Polynesia Company to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(*Received January* 16, 1875.)

The Memorial of George Thomas Wyleigh, of Melbourne, Manager of "The Polynesia Company Limited," Melbourne.

Humbly sheweth,

1. THE said Company became incorporated in the Colony of Victoria on the basis of a Charter which was granted in July 1868, by King Cakobau and the Feudatory Chiefs of Fiji, to enable them to meet pressing demands then about to be enforced by the United States' Government.

2. In consideration of the Charter (a copy of which is herewith lodged), the Company have satisfied the American claims amounting to 42,248 dollars, together with the interest due thereon, and have always been prepared to pay 200*l.* per annum to King Cakobau, upon being placed in full possession of the lands and "privileges" conferred by the Charter.

3. The Company have so far received only 90,000 out of the 200,000 acres of land ceded by the Charter, as set forth in a Memorial presented in January last to the Royal Commissioners in Fiji, and by letter in September last addressed to his Excellency Sir Hercules Robinson, copies of which have already been submitted to your Lordship.

4. At the time the Company were formed, thousands of acres of land were to be had in Fiji for less than a shilling per acre, free from the cost of survey, clearly proving the "rights and privileges" were then considered the most valuable portion of the Charter.

Monopolies hig valuable to the Company.

5. The Company have suffered very serious loss from the non-fulfilment of the Charter by the Fijian authorities, and will yet have to make expensive surveys before each shareholder can be put in possession of his respective allotment of land.

Losses and expe still to be incu

6. The Company were the means of preventing the United States' Government from taking possession of a portion, if not of the entire group of islands known as the Fijis.

Americans kep from taking isl by the Compar

So far as can be ascertained by your Lordship's Memorialist, the claims of the Company date back prior to that of all other existing ones.

The Company' claims the olde now existing.

Numbers of the shareholders being desirous of settling in the Fijis are now calling upon your Lordship's Memorialist to place them in possession of the land to which they are entitled; your Lordship's Memorialist, therefore, humbly prays that your Lordship will be graciously pleased to order that the Company shall without delay receive the balance of land still due, amounting to 110,000 acres (say 110,000 acres), and Fiji being now a possession of the British Crown, rendering the existence of monopolies there objectionable, your Lordship will be graciously pleased further to order that the new Colony of Fiji shall, as soon as is possible, in lieu of the "privileges" contained in the Charter, pay to the Company a consideration in money of not less than 25,000*l.*

Shareholders desirous of set in Fiji.

Prayer for the balance of land due, and for a sideration in m for the "privile of the Compan

Your Lordship's Memorialist, therefore, humbly prays that your Lordship will be graciously pleased to grant his Memorial, and your Lordship's Memorialist will ever pray, &c.

(Signed) GEO. T. WYLEIGH, *Manager.*

Melbourne, December 3, 1874.

Know all men by these presents that I, King Thakombau, of the Bau Dominions, in consideration of William Harry O'Halloran Brewer, and John Lavington Evans, of Melbourne, in the Colony of Victoria, now on a visit to me as Delegates and Agents appointed for and on behalf of a certain Company about to be formed in the said Colony under the Company's Statute, 1864, hereby undertaking for and on behalf of such Company, and immediately after its formation to make suitable provision for the settlement of a claim of 9,000*l.* preferred against me, the said King, for and on behalf of the Government of the United States of America, for losses said to have been sustained by certain American subjects who resided in my Kingdom, owing to certain alleged depredations and acts of incendiarism committed and caused by my native subjects, and which said claim the said Government of the United States of America are now threatening to enforce, do by these presents for ever grant and cede, transfer and set over unto the said William Harry O'Halloran Brewer, and John Lavington Evans, and also Andrew Lyell and Frederick Cook, of Melbourne aforesaid, gentlemen, hereinafter called trustees, for and on behalf of the said intended Company, the several islands, parts of islands, and other territory in Fiji, forming part of my Kingdom, which are respectively mentioned and set forth in the Schedule hereunder written, together with the soil or beds of all seas, rivers, and waters adjacent to or abutting on the scheduled territory, or any part or parts thereof, and all harbours, seas, rivers, creeks, and inlets thereunto belonging or appertaining, or which the said trustees or the said intending Company may now or hereafter think necessary for the settlement or enjoyment of the said scheduled territory, or any part or parts thereof; and also all mines or minerals in or upon the same, and in consideration of the Company paying to me annually the sum of 1,000 dollars, I, on the part of myself and my successors for ever, grant to the said Company exemption from all taxation or imposts on the importation into, or the exportation from any of the lands, harbours, rivers, &c., that now or hereafter shall form part of the said Scheduled territory; and also grant to the said Company for the term of twenty-one years, to establish in any part or parts of my Kingdom Banking Institutions, and I undertake not to give such right to any other or Company in my territory, and the right to issue and circulate throughout all or any part of my Kingdom bank notes. And I, the said King, pledge myself to protect the inhabitants and settlers of the lands of the Company from native or other violence, molestation, interference, attacks, pillage, and robberies, both from within and without.

In witness whereof, I, the said King, have hereunto set my hand and seal, this 23rd day of July, in the year of our Lord 1868.

(Signed) EPENISA CAKOBAU, his ⋈ mark.
(L.S.)

Witnesses to signature,
(Signed) J. C. Smith.
Joseph Curtis.
R. Spowart.
John Spiers.

(Signed) EPENISA CAKOBAU, his ⋈ mark.
(L.S.)

Signed, sealed, and delivered, by King Thakombau, in the presence of,
(Signed) J. C. Smith.
Joseph Curtis.
R. Spowart.
John Spiers.

And we, the Undersigned, being the principal Chiefs under King Thakombau, hereby ratify and confirm in all respects the foregoing Charter.

(Signed) SAVANACA NAULIVOU, his ⋈ mark.
RATU DRANIBAKA, his ⋈ mark.
RATU EPELI NAILATEKAU, his ⋈ mark
RATU ILIJIA TOROCO, his ⋈ mark.
SITIVANI TUKANA, his ⋈ mark.
MARIKA TOROCA.

Witnesses to signatures,
(Signed) J. C. Smith.
Joseph Curtis.
R. Spowart.
John Spiers.

The Schedule.

Two hundred thousand acres of land, of which the following blocks are a portion :—

1st. Commencing from the River Ruku Ruku, in Viti Levu Bay, following the coast towards Bau to the township of Veidrala, and back inland, making it a square block.

2nd. Also land at Thackandrora, Natavai Bay, Island of Vanua Levu, four miles, commencing from the township of Tivo, up the coast, and about the same distance inland.

3rd. Also the island of M'Benga and the following islands : Moturiki, Levuku Malumu, Nanuku, within that reef.

4th. Also Suva, its harbour, territories, and district, commencing from Lami, running along the coast towards Rewa to the township of Kalabo, and running inland to the Wai-manu.

And I also agree to cede other lands suitable for the occupation of the Company, or extend the boundaries of one or other of the foregoing tracts of country above ceded in the same proportion of coast to inland, to complete the grant of 200,000 acres.

(Signed) EPENISA CAKOBAU, his ⋈ mark.
SAVANACA NAULIVOU, his ⋈ mark.
RATU DRANIBAKA, his ⋈ mark.
RATU EPELI NAILATIKAU, his ⋈ mark.
RATU ILIJIA TOROCA, his ⋈ mark.
SITIVANA TUKANA, his ⋈ mark.
MARIKA TOROCA.

Witnesses to signatures,
(Signed) J. C. Smith.
Joseph Curtis.
R. Spowart.
John Spiers.

No. 3.

The Earl of Carnarvon to the Officer Administering the Government of Victoria.

Sir, *Downing Street, January* 23, 1875.

I HAVE received a Memorial, dated Melbourne the 3rd of December, 1874, signed by Mr. George Thomas Wyleigh, Manager of the Company styled the Polynesia Company Limited, inclosing a copy of a Charter granted by Thakombau in 1868, purporting to concede to certain persons in the Colony of Victoria 200,000 acres of land in Fiji, and various privileges in consideration of their undertaking the settlement of a sum of money claimed from Thakombau by the United States and the payment to him of an annuity.

You will have the goodness to inform the Memorialist that the case of the Company which he represents will be fully considered, and will be dealt with by the Governor of the new Colony after his arrival in Fiji.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 4.

Colonial Office to the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, January* 26, 1875.

I AM directed by the Earl of Carnarvon to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a Memorial from Mr. George Thomas Wyleigh,* of Melbourne, inclosing a copy of a Charter granted by Thakombau in 1868, purporting to concede to certain persons in the Colony of Victoria 200,000 acres of land in Fiji, and with certain privileges, in consideration of their undertaking the settlement of a sum of money claimed from Thakombau by the United States and the payment to him of an annuity; and I am to request that you will favour his Lordship, at your early convenience, with any observations that may occur to you respecting the claims advanced in the Memorial, and the best mode of dealing with them.

On this subject, I am desired to refer you to Mr. Consul March's Memorandum of the 14th of May, 1873, at pages 9 and 10 of the Parliamentary Papers (Fiji Islands of April 1874, C.—983), and to the remarks of Sir H. Robinson, printed at page 43 of the Confidential Paper No. 45, printed for the use of this Office, copies of which, Lord Carnarvon understands, have been already forwarded to you.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. R. MALCOLM.

No. 5.

Colonial Office to Treasury.

Sir, *Downing Street, February* 25, 1875.

I AM directed by the Earl of Carnarvon to request that the attention of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury may be directed to the financial condition of Fiji, as shown in the paper recently laid before Parliament,† of which I am to annex a copy, and more particularly to the 22nd and following paragraphs, of Sir H. Robinson's despatch of October 20th, at page 52 of that paper.

2. Lord Carnarvon is unable to satisfy himself that the revenue of Fiji can with confidence be expected to exceed 25,000*l.* a year, or even to be maintained at that rate, while it is almost inevitable that fresh causes of expenditure must present themselves in addition to those comprised in the estimates of Sir H. Robinson, whose calculations indeed appear to have been based upon a somewhat more favourable view of the administrative arrangements which are likely to be necessary than Lord Carnarvon feels that, under all the circumstances of the case, he can prudently take.

3. While, therefore, Lord Carnarvon continues to think that the revenue of Fiji may be made to suffice for the annual expenditure of the Colony, he is clearly of opinion that Fiji will not be able to bear any considerable charge on account of obligations or expenses incurred prior to the cession, or necessarily attendant upon the first establishment of the Colonial Government; and his Lordship feels himself obliged to invite the Lords Commissioners to consider in what form it will be preferable that

* No. 2. † No. 11 of Command Paper C. 1114, February 6, 1875.

the Colony should be assisted by this country in discharging the debts and obligations which have to be met before the islands can be left to their own resources.

4. After fully considering Sir H. Robinson's proposal as to the terms in which a loan might be made to the Colony, Lord Carnarvon is disposed to think that, in the peculiar circumstances of the present case, it might be preferable to guarantee the interest of a Colonial loan. His Lordship shares the objection so generally entertained to an Imperial guarantee in the case of a loan negotiated by a Colony for purposes in respect of which its ordinary revenue, if it were adequate, would in the first instance be chargeable. Unless for some very special reason such a loan should be issued on the sole responsibility of the Colonial Government, and at the rate of interest which the securities of the Colony must ordinarily bear. But his Lordship thinks it possible that the Lords Commissioners may incline to the opinion that, as the acceptance of the cession of Fiji has been a matter of Imperial policy, the guarantee of interest upon any money that may be borrowed in order to defray charges not incurred after the first establishment of the Colonial Government, may be, not only admissible, but preferable to any other form of financial assistance.

5. Lord Carnarvon has been informed that the Government of New South Wales will be willing to recommend to the Legislature of that Colony that it should join with the Imperial Government in giving such a guarantee.

6. As the probability of the guarantors being at any time called upon to redeem such an undertaking is, in his Lordship's opinion, very remote, it would probably not be worth while to trouble the New South Wales' Legislature on this subject, were it not for the desirability, which Lord Carnarvon feels strongly, of taking advantage of this opportunity of allowing a Colony which is willing to do so to take part with this country in a work of great Imperial interest. And it is in a great measure from this consideration that his Lordship inclines to a guarantee of a loan rather than an advance on terms similar to those adopted by the Public Works Loan Commissioners.

7. With regard to the amount of the loan to be guaranteed or the advance to be made, Lord Carnarvon is disposed to think that, while it should be restricted, as I have already observed, to claims, debts, or charges connected with the period antecedent to the cession with the original establishment of the new Government, it should not be limited to a less maximum sum than 150,000*l.*, as it is obvious that, when Sir H. Robinson visited Fiji, he was not made aware of the amounts that would become payable under several heads. For example, his Lordship has just received despatches stating that considerable sums have unavoidably been expended on the return to their islands of labourers whose term of service had expired before the cession; and these expenses should properly, and, indeed, can only be defrayed from the proceeds of a loan.

8. I am to request that as early a reply as possible may be given to this letter, as Sir A. Gordon will sail very shortly for Fiji.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT G. W. HERBERT.

No. 6.

The Earl of Carnarvon to the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, March* 4, 1875.

AS the time of your departure to assume the Government of Fiji is now near at hand I think it desirable to communicate to you in writing my observations and instructions on some of the principal matters for which provision will have to be made at the earliest practicable date after your arrival in the Colony.

Most of these subjects have been fully and carefully reported upon by Sir H. Robinson in his despatch of the 20th October last,* and it may be convenient that I should now deal with them in the order which he adopted.

I.—*Pensions.*

2. First, with respect to pensions, I would observe that if you find that Thakombau has been distinctly given to understand that so large a pension as 1,500*l.* a-year is likely to be allowed in his case, and expects to receive that amount, it will probably be desirable not to reduce it. But the sum appears to me to be larger than is, in some respects, consistent with the position which the late King must hereafter occupy.

Looking to his past circumstances, not less than to his present requirements, considerably less would suffice to keep him and his family in such comfort and dignity

* No 11 of C. 1114, February 1875.

as are suited to their altered condition; and it appears to me to be in many ways objectionable to provide Thakombau with the means of maintaining any royal court or retinue. The natives should be taught as early as possible that, while he is respected and protected from want, he is now a private individual, and that whatever power and prestige of royalty may have been attributed to him have passed to his Mistress the Queen of England.

I request, therefore, that you will consider very carefully whether his pension should be 1,500*l.* per annum, or whether, without any breach of faith, it may be fixed at a lower sum. It will further be desirable that you should report to me from time to time whether it is being properly expended both for his own benefit and in a manner not injurious to the interests of the Government. If, as he becomes more infirm and less capable of managing his affairs, it should appear to you that the pension is not being expended to his advantage or is being applied to improper objects, it may become necessary for the Government to undertake the care of him, and instead of making him a money payment to provide him with such necessaries and comforts as may be suitable to his condition.

3. The proportion of this pension, one-half or perhaps two-thirds, which Sir H. Robinson would propose to assign to the Queen, if she survives him, appears to me somewhat in excess of what may reasonably be claimed; and I fail to perceive the necessity of making a permanent provision for his sons if they are in a position to maintain themselves either in the public service or otherwise and neglect to do so. It would, however, be right and fair to give them all reasonable opportunities of acquiring the full means of support, and it may be desirable in the first instance to afford them some assistance towards placing themselves in a satisfactory position.

In the case of the Queen, who, as far as I am aware, has not personally acquired any prominent position, a small annual payment, or perhaps an allowance of food and other necessary articles such as would secure her in all reasonable comfort would appear suitable.

But I shall await your Report on this subject.

4. The pension proposed for Mr. St. Julian, which was a very moderate one, has, as you are aware, lapsed through his death.

II.—*Liabilities.*

5. In the next place, with respect to the liabilities incurred by the persons who administered the so-called Government of Fiji before the cession, I concur very generally with Sir H. Robinson's view of the relation in which the new Colonial Government stands toward those who had dealings with Thakombau's Governments, and the course which should be taken in respect of their claims.

6. You will cause it to be very clearly understood that Her Majesty's Government and the Colonial Government absolutely and entirely decline to admit that they are necessarily under any obligation to take up the liabilities incurred by those who have purported to administer the affairs of the Islands. No claim of the kind preferred by way of demand or as of right can for a moment be entertained, and to prevent any possible misconception on such a question it may be desirable to relieve the Government from any attempts to press such claims by passing an Ordinance declaring that no action shall lie against the Crown or the Colonial Government in respect of liabilities incurred by the late King or by any persons not in the employment of the Crown or the Colonial Government.

7. But although I think it necessary to define in the strongest manner the refusal of Her Majesty's Government to accept, or allow the Colonial Government to accept, any direct liability or obligation connected with the acts of persons for whom it has been in no way responsible, I am nevertheless of opinion that it will be for the credit of the newly constituted Government that voluntarily, and as an act of grace, it should offer to undertake the payment of so much of the debts incurred before the cession as after proper inquiry it may appear just and fair for it to assume. As Sir H. Robinson has pointed out, it will be necessary for this purpose to examine carefully all claims put forward, and as at present advised, I am of opinion that the four classes of the creditors of the so-called Fijian Government may be dealt with on the general principles laid down in paragraph 9 of his despatch of 26th October. But with regard to the time and manner in which any such payments are to be made, the Government of Fiji must reserve to itself the fullest discretion.

8. I am disposed to think that the best course will be for you to notify publicly, as soon as convenient after your assumption of the Government, that while the Government of Fiji declines to be responsible for any debts or liabilities incurred by or

in the name of Thakombau or any other persons purporting to represent any Government of Fiji prior to the cession, it is nevertheless willing to consider any proofs that may be brought forward of money or supplies having been actually provided for public purposes; but the persons so applying to be reimbursed must be made clearly to understand that it will rest entirely with the Colonial Government (subject, if necessary, to a reference to the Secretary of State) to decide in each case whether the sum claimed, or a part of it, should be paid, and if so, at what time and in what manner the payment shall be made.

9. I am now in communication with the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury with the view of determining whether any financial assistance should be given from Imperial funds, as proposed by Sir H. Robinson in paragraph 22 of his despatch, towards meeting any such liabilities as under the conditions which I have mentioned it may be deemed right that the new Colony should accept. Whether with the assistance of this country or not, it appears unavoidable that a loan should be raised for the purpose of meeting charges which the current revenue cannot and ought not to bear; and if it is thought convenient, any creditors of Thakombau's Government can of course be required to receive the bonds of such a loan, on terms to be approved by Her Majesty's Government instead of cash.

10. It is very desirable that this question should be finally disposed of as soon as possible by the payment or rejection of each claim that may be made, and it will be one of your first duties to make proper arrangements for receiving and inquiring into all such applications for payment as I have above referred to.

III and IV.—*Fiji Bank and Polynesian Land Company.*

11. I see no reason to differ from the general conclusions arrived at by Sir H. Robinson as to these two Charters. Not only are they necessarily rendered void by the effacement of the so-called Government which purported to grant them, but they are in some obvious respects contrary to those principles of policy which must prevail in a British Colony. If after inquiry you see no objection to dealing with these Companies in the manner proposed by Sir H. Robinson, you have my sanction for taking that course.

V.—*Titles to Land.*

12. I now approach the most serious question to which you will be required to address yourself, and the settlement of which on a clear and simple basis is of the the gravest importance to the future peace and prosperity of the Colony. I concur with Sir H. Robinson in the opinion that, if judicious steps are at once taken, there should be no great difficulty in preventing or removing all confusion as to the titles to land of both Europeans and natives.

13. The broad principles to be followed in the difficult and very exceptional case of Fiji are :—

(1.) That it should be declared that the whole of the land within the limits of Fiji, whether in the occupation of, or reputed or deemed to have been, prior to the cession of the islands, the property of either Europeans or natives, as well as all waste and unclaimed land, has, by virtue of the instrument which ceded to Her Majesty the "possession of and full sovereignty and dominion over the whole of the islands," become absolutely and unreservedly transferred to the Crown, and that the Queen has the full power of disposing of the whole of the land in such manner as to Her Majesty may seem fit; having due regard to such interests as may be entitled to recognition under Article 4 of that instrument.

(2.) That, with the view of disturbing as little as possible existing tenures and occupations, and of maintaining (as far as practicable, and with such modifications only as justice and good policy may in any case appear to demand) all contracts honestly entered into before the cession, the Colonial Government, to which the rights of the Crown are delegated in that behalf, should forthwith require all Europeans claiming to have acquired land by purchase, to give satisfactory evidence of the transactions with the natives on which they rely as establishing their title; and if the land appears to have been acquired fairly and at a fair price, should issue to the persons accepted, after due inquiry, as owners, a Crown Grant in fee simple of the land to which they may appear entitled, subject to any conditions as to further payments and charges or otherwise, which may appear just. Sir H. Robinson has recently directed the issue of a notification, in which I fully concur, declaring that all sums paid by the Government for wages or return passages of labourers shall be a first charge upon the lands in respect of which the services of those labourers were rendered. If, in any case, satis-

factory arrangements are not made for the repayment of such advances, it will be necessary to consider what steps should be taken for entering upon such lands in the name of the Crown.

(3.) That the native titles to land not so granted to Europeans, should in the next place be as far as possible verified and simplified; and when it has been determined what lands are "now in the occupation of or actually required for the probable future support or maintenance of chiefs and tribes," the Crown should hold such lands in trust for, and leave them for the present in the occupation of, the tribes, families, or chiefs by whom it is at present possessed.

(4.) That henceforth all dealings in land between Europeans and natives shall not only be invalid, and not recognizable by any Court of Law, but shall be expressly forbidden by enactment; that whenever any European desires to purchase any native lands, his application must be addressed to the Colonial Government, which, if it thinks fit to sanction such purchase, shall itself acquire the land, and fix the price at which it shall be granted by the Crown to the applicant; and that as between Europeans no land shall be transferable except under the provisions of the Ordinance for Land Transfer, through the Registration Office, which it will be your duty at once to cause to be enacted on the model of the Acts on this subject now in force in Australia.

(5.) That in all Crown Grants full power shall be taken to resume at any time such land as may be required for roads or public works, and that, as far as practicable, such resumptions should be made before the grants are issued, and specified in them.

14. I believe that this sketch of the principles according to which the settlement of the land question in Fiji should be undertaken will be found sufficient to guide you as to the general course to be taken. It will be necessary that a Commission should be at once appointed, as suggested by Sir H. Robinson, to deal with the whole question of the ownership and occupation of land. I do not propose, however, that it should be left to this Commission to decide any of the broader questions of principle, such as I have already referred to. I have preferred to give you express instructions on the principal points, in order that questions may not hereafter be raised upon them in the Colony, and you will refer to me for further directions on any point as to which you are not assured that you clearly understand the views of Her Majesty's Government.

15. In appointing the Commission, you should accordingly be careful not to confer upon its members any further powers than those of inquiring and reporting to you; and it will be for you, with the advice of your Executive Council, to direct the action to be taken in each case. It will be necessary that the Commission should inquire most strictly into the claims of European occupants, which, as Her Majesty's Government has been repeatedly warned, are likely to be in many cases excessive or unfounded; and in the case of native claims also, great care should be taken to protect the interests of the Crown, by allowing no more than a fair and liberal interpretation of the IVth Article of the Instrument of Cession, as illustrated by the conversation between Sir H. Robinson and Thakombau on the 25th of September.

16. As it is most important that the Commission should be independent of local influences, it will be desirable that it should be composed, as far as possible, of persons unconnected with the Colony prior to the cession; and the Secretary for Native Affairs, with the Royal Engineer Officer, who will probably be appointed to act as Surveyor-General, would probably be suitable members of the Commission, with, perhaps, one or two other persons who may be selected in Australia or New Zealand.

VI.—*Lala, or Service Tenures.*

17. I concur very fully in Sir Hercules Robinson's remarks under this head. It is a question to which no answer can confidently be given until after a much longer acquaintance with the capacity and character of the natives of Fiji, than we now possess, whether it will be desirable to attempt to improve and develop their tribal organization as an instrument of government, or to discountenance and supersede it as impeding civilization, and not conducive to peace and order. For the present it is at all events obvious that no sudden change must be contemplated.

VII.—*Mountain Tribes.*

18. Since Sir Hercules Robinson wrote the despatch on which I am commenting, he has reported a friendly visit of the Kai Colos to Levuka, from which I am led to conclude that there will be no insuperable difficulty in establishing satisfactory relations with them. Any difficulty of the kind is, in fact, judging from experience in other colonies, to be looked for as much in the misconduct of Europeans or labourers in their employment as in the aggressive disposition of the tribes with which friendly relations

have not been completely established. It will be your duty to examine most strictly into the causes of any collisions that may arise between the mountain tribes and the planters or their labourers, and if the latter are to blame, to use every effort to procure their punishment.

19. Sir H. Robinson concludes by specifying certain purposes to which the loan to be raised should be applied. It is not possible for me now to express an opinion on each item; but, I may observe, that if, as I anticipate, you find it necessary to provide that steam communication among the islands shall be at the command of the Colonial Government, independently of Her Majesty's ships, it may be preferable to enter into arrangements for subsidizing a commercial steamer, and not to resort to the very costly proceeding of purchasing and owning a colonial vessel.

20. I am aware that you are not inclined to incur any excessive or unnecessary expense in the erection of a Government House, or other office buildings, and I should be disposed to leave to your judgment the expenditure to be incurred on these objects, with the observation that the smallest possible outlay should be made until the seat of Government, which is a question that needs careful consideration, is definitely settled. As soon as you are in a position to do so, I request you to report to me whether, in your opinion, Levuka can be made to fulfil the requirements of the central seat of Government sufficiently well. Except for very strong reasons a change would be undesirable; but if it must be made, the least possible delay should take place.

21. I am not as yet able to feel entire confidence in the future prospects of the revenue. I sincerely trust that Sir H. Robinson's anticipations will be fulfilled; and if the generally received estimate of the capabilities of the islands is but partly correct, there will, as he says, be no fear for the future solvency of the Colony. But it is, I understand, already questioned whether the mode of raising revenue at present established will produce the required amount, and it will be a matter for your anxious consideration how, during the first few years, while the European settlers are struggling to establish themselves and the natives are imperfectly under control, an adequate revenue can be raised without pressing too severely upon any interest.

I will now conclude my observations on those points which it has been my purpose to notice in this despatch; and in separate communications I shall address you respecting the administration of justice, the civil establishments, and the duties to be assigned to you as Her Majesty's High Commissioner for certain groups of islands beyond Fiji, in which it is especially necessary to watch and control the proceedings of British subjects, as well as on various minor matters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 7.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, March* 20, 1875.

HAVING considered the expenditure authorised by Sir H. Robinson for the Provisional Government of Fiji for the year now current, and having also had the advantage of learning your views on various matters connected with the administration of the Government, I have decided that the scale of establishments shown in the accompanying paper may be adopted, subject to such reductions as you may find practicable, and to any further revision which I may hereafter feel obliged to make.

2. I am aware that it has been considered that a less expensive Civil Establishment might have sufficed; but, as it is most important to avoid administrative weakness during the first years of the new Government, I have not hesitated to accede to your representations as to the staff, for which provision should be made in the first instance.

3. I wish you to understand, however, that in my opinion there will be considerable difficulty for some time to come in providing revenue sufficient for all the requirements of the Colony, and I look to you to effect every possible economy by the consolidation of offices and revision of salaries as opportunities may present themselves.

4. It will be necessary for administrative purposes to create other offices in addition to those which are enumerated in the scheme of Establishments which I now transmit; but I wish you particularly to understand that I shall not be prepared, unless for very strong reasons, to sanction the admission into the service in such cases

of fresh persons, or an addition to the salaries now prescribed. Every person taking service under the Government of Fiji must be prepared to discharge any duties that may be reasonably assigned to him without question, and you will exercise your judgment as to distributing among the officers now provided for any fresh duties that may have to be performed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

Inclosure in No. 7.

ESTABLISHMENTS.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
I.—*Governor.*						
The Governor	*5,000	0	0			
Private Secretary and Clerk of Councils	300	0	0			
Aide-de-camp	170	0	0			
Interpreter to Governor	150	0	0			
				3,620	0	0
II.—*Colonial Secretary.*						
Colonial Secretary, Auditor-General, and Registrar	600	0	0			
Chief Interpreter	300	0	0			
Two Clerks	400	0	0			
Office-keeper, for Government Offices	150	0	0			
				1,450	0	0
III.—*Treasury.*						
Colonial Treasurer and Collector of Customs	500	0	0			
Accountant	200	0	0			
Two boarding officers	300	0	0			
				1,000	0	0
IV.—*Native Affairs.*						
Native Secretary, Immigration Agent, and Land Commissioner	500	0	0			
Assistant Secretary	350	0	0			
Clerk	200	0	0			
Twelve Rokos	2,920	0	0			
Eighty-two Bulis	545	0	0			
Coxswain and Messenger	75	0	0			
				4,590	0	0
V.—*Post Office.*						
Postmaster	150	0	0			
Messenger	10	8	0			
				160	8	0
VI.—*Judicial.*						
Chief Justice	1,000	0	0			
Attorney-General	500	0	0			
Native Judge	120	0	0			
Four Stipendiary Magistrates	960	0	0			
Twelve Native Magistrates	288	0	0			
Interpreter and Judge's Clerk	150	0	0			
Clerk of Police Court	150	0	0			
				3,168	0	0
VII.—*Police and Gaols.*						
Superintendent and Sheriff	200	0	0			
Sub-Inspector	150	0	0			
Clerk	100	0	0			
Europeans	400	0	0			
Natives	600	0	0			
Gaoler at Levuka	180	0	0			
Ditto at Lovoni	150	0	0			
Warder	90	0	0			
				1,870	0	0
VIII.—*Medical.*						
Chief Medical Officer and Health Officer, Levuka and Viti Levu	350	0	0			
Ditto, Vanua Levu and Taviuni	300	0	0			
				650	0	0
IX.—*Harbour.*						
Harbour-master	200	0	0			
Light-keeper	50	0	0			
				250	0	0
				16,758	8	0

* 3,000*l.* only to be drawn.

No. 8.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, March 22, 1875.*

IN continuation of my despatch of the 20th instant,* I now propose to convey to you my views in relation to the general administration of justice in Fiji, and my instructions as to the more important Ordinances on this subject, which it will be your duty to lay before the Legislative Council as early as circumstances will permit after your assumption of the Government of the Colony.

2. The Ordinance to establish a Supreme Court of Judicature will be the first of these measures which will demand your attention.

3. Subject to any temporary arrangement that may be made for reinforcing the strength of the Court during the period immediately following your assumption of the Government, it is intended that the Supreme Court shall consist for the present of one judge only, to be styled the Chief Justice, and shall exercise within the limits of the Colony a jurisdiction commensurate with that of the Courts of Equity and Common Law, the Court of Probate, and the Court for Divorce and Matrimonial Causes, in England. It is proposed that Vice-Admiralty jurisdiction shall be conferred upon it by Commission in the usual way.

4. Its jurisdiction in bankruptcy or insolvency should be conferred by a local Ordinance suitable to the circumstances of the Colony; and dealing with the subject of imprisonment for debt.

5. The Ordinance establishing the Supreme Court should provide for the admission and enrolment of barristers and solicitors, and for a variety of other matters to which it is unnecessary that I should here refer in detail, for, in order to facilitate your labours in this branch of legislation, I have caused drafts of several Ordinances to be prepared, which are inclosed in this despatch,† and which have been framed in accordance with the views which I desire to convey to you on the different subjects to which they relate. Among these drafts you will find one for a Supreme Court Ordinance, in which all the necessary clauses have been inserted, besides many provisions which are, I think, likely to prove useful, as being adapted to the conditions and requirements of a new Colony.

6. Another draft deals with the criminal procedure of the Supreme Court. As regards this subject, I am of opinion that there should be no presentments by a grand jury, but that all prosecutions in the Supreme Court should be instituted and tried on an information to be filed by the Attorney-General, and that, except in the class of cases known in England as *ex officio* informations, and informations filed by the Master of the Crown Office, every prosecution should be founded upon the depositions taken before a magistrate and upon a committal of the accused person for trial.

7. The Ordinance provides, among other things, for criminal trials to be held by the Chief Justice, with the aid of Assessors, in cases where any one of the parties (complainant or defendant, as the case may be) is an aboriginal of Fiji, or belongs to the coloured races. A similar system is in force in India for the protection of natives; and under the circumstances of Fiji, both now and for some time to come, it is, I think, probable that this provision may prove beneficial in its application to that Colony.

8. The next draft Ordinance to which I would draw your attention is the one which empowers the Governor to prohibit, for a limited period, any person whom he may believe to be disaffected to Her Majesty's Government, or otherwise dangerous to the peace or good order of the Colony, from residing or being in any specified island or district. This power to remove from a particular place (not extending, it will be observed, to banishment beyond the limits of the Colony) persons whose presence may be menacing to the tranquillity of a district or to the safety of any of its inhabitants, is one of a very exceptional character. It is hardly necessary to point out the great responsibility under which a Governor who exercises such a power will act, and the mischief which would ensue from any misapplication or unreasonable use of it. It is, however, an authority which I doubt not will be safe in your keeping, and which may be entrusted to the Executive under the peculiar circumstances in which you will have to carry on the Government of this new Colony. I can only hope that the necessity for its exercise may very rarely, if ever, arise. In the event of a resort to it, you will not fail to transmit to this Department, without delay, a clear explanation of your reasons for doing so.

* No. 6. † Not printed.

9. As regards the civil procedure of the Supreme Court, there can be no doubt that it should be of as simple a character as can be devised. All civil suits should be tried by the Chief Justice or other duly commissioned judge sitting alone, unless he should think it expedient that the trial should take place with the aid of Assessors.

10. I would recommend that, in the first instance, the civil procedure and practice of the Court should be laid down by general rules to be framed under the power proposed to be vested for this purpose in the Chief Justice by the Supreme Court Ordinance.

11. These rules, after a sufficient experience of their working, might form later a useful groundwork for an Ordinance embodying a complete code of procedure. They should, among other things, provide for the summary hearing and determination, without written pleadings, of petty debt cases, and small causes limited as regards the amount claimed to a specified sum, and as regards the subject matter of the suit, to questions of the simplest character. With such limitations, this branch of the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court might be administered concurrently in various parts of the Colony by the stipendiary magistrates as Commissioners of the Court, subject to appeal to the Supreme Court.

12. In connection with this subject, I would point out that Her Majesty's Order in Council of the 12th December, 1873, for the Regulation of Consular Jurisdiction in the Levant, contains simple and concise provisions relating to legal procedure in all the branches of the jurisdiction which is to be vested in the Supreme Court of Fiji. I therefore inclose a copy of this Order, in addition to the draft Ordinances above referred to, and I think that, unless for some strong reason, it will be desirable that its provisions should be closely followed in Fiji, the more especially as they will be adopted for the regulation of your jurisdiction as Her Majesty's High Commissioner in Western Polynesia.

13. Another of the draft Ordinances inclosed in this despatch provides for the interpretation of terms and expressions usually adopted in Colonial legislation. It is intended to shorten the language of Ordinances, and will be found of much practical utility in the preparation of the laws which will hereafter constitute the Statute Book of the Colony. In the compilation of these laws, your task may be lightened by availing yourself to some extent of the legislation adopted in the adjacent Colonies of Australasia to meet similar conditions of social life.

14. The aborigines of Fiji will, I am convinced, be the objects of your constant solicitude. Their special protection will be committed, under you, to the Secretary for Native Affairs, and it will be necessary that an Ordinance should be passed defining the functions and duties of that officer, and investing him with powers of prompt intervention in all matters which affect the rights and interests of the natives. For instance, in suits between natives, or in which natives are concerned, and in any criminal prosecution against them, he should be *ex officio* assessor to the Supreme Court.

15. A special Ordinance should be passed under the power vested in Colonial Legislatures by the Imperial Act 6 Vict., chap. 22, for the admission of the unsworn testimony of natives in civil and criminal cases; and the same Law should empower the Courts in civil cases to admit evidence of native customs not repugnant to justice and morality, especially in regard to marriages, wills, the title to land, the transfer of property *inter vivos*, and its devolution on intestacy, and to deal with such cases in accordance with natural equity and good conscience. It will, of course, be the duty of the Secretary for Native Affairs and his subordinates to make themselves conversant with these native customs, and to supply to the Government all such information as may from time to time be required on that subject.

16. I apprehend that in the first instance it will be necessary to leave in the hands of native Chiefs and Magistrates the jurisdiction which they now exercise both in civil and criminal proceedings, though under the immediate supervision and control of the Secretary for Native Affairs, the European Magistrates, and the Supreme Court. But if the parties, or one of them, desire that the case should be heard and determined before the ordinary Tribunals of the Colony, and the case be considered by the Court a fit one for the exercise of its jurisdiction, I see no reason why it should not take cognizance of it.

17. The last point upon which I desire to offer some remarks, relates to the mode in which it will be most convenient to deal with the existing Laws of the Colony, and especially with those which have been promulgated temporarily in Her Majesty's name since the cession of Fiji.

18. You are aware that by the Proclamation of the 13th October, 1874, the Laws of New South Wales, with certain exceptions, are declared to be in force in the Colony; and as I have before mentioned, it is intended that the Laws of England should be in

force, as far as may be practicable, and subject to Acts of the Local Legislature modifying their provisions as applied to the particular circumstances of the place.

19. It will be very important, therefore, to obviate any confusion which might arise by too sudden a transition from one system of laws to another; and an Ordinance should be passed to declare what Laws and Proclamations shall continue in force, and to empower the Legislative Council from time to time by Resolution, to be published in the "Gazette," to declare that any Law or Proclamation continuing in force under the Ordinance should be repealed or revoked, as from any particular date, or as respects any particular district, or class of inhabitants. On the other hand, it will be very desirable that all the new Ordinances relating to the administration of justice, including the proceedings before Magistrates and Justices of the Peace, should be brought into force as far as practicable, *uno flatu*.

20. I need scarcely add, in conclusion, that all the important matters which form the subject of this despatch call for the exercise of great care and discretion; and the experience which you have already acquired, will be of great advantage in their treatment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 9.

Governor Sir H. Robinson, G.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received April 10.)

My Lord, *Government House, Sydney, February 19, 1875.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship statements of the receipts and expenditure of the Colony of Fiji, from the 11th October to the 31st December, 1874, and also for the month of December. It will be seen from the Returns for the longer period that, including an advance from the New South Wales Government of 1,000*l.* in new silver, the receipts, so far, exceed the expenditure by 1,544*l.* 13*s.*

2. The receipts do not come up to my estimate; but the smallness of the total is, in a great measure, owing to the fact that for the first six weeks after cession scarcely any business was transacted. The receipts for the month of December were at the rate of 29,670*l.* 15*s.* a-year.

3. There can be no doubt that until the settlement of the land question permits the safe introduction of capital into the Colony, so as to develop its resources, the revenue will not show any material increase.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERCULES ROBINSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 9.

STATEMENT of Receipts and Expenditure from 11th October to the 31st December, 1874.

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.
Customs duties	2,817	18	10
Pilotage and light dues	89	1	10
Licenses to interinsular trading vessels and boats, &c.	49	0	0
Native taxes	959	1	0
Fees and fines, Central Court	60	12	8
,, ,, Court of Petty Sessions	34	16	6
Licenses to Polynesian immigrant vessels	50	0	0
,, Wines and spirits	30	0	0
,, Auctioneers'	15	0	0
Miscellaneous revenues	94	17	9
Postage stamps	62	11	4
Total	4,262	19	11

EXPENDITURE.

ESTABLISHMENTS.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1. Executive.	647	1	1			
2. Judicial	314	12	2			
3. Colonial Secretary's Office	156	3	8			
4. Postal	56	7	4			
5. Police	285	4	0			
6. Gaols	93	14	3			
7. Treasury	44	12	6			
8. Customs	200	15	8			
9. Native Affairs	1,180	14	4			
				2,979	5	0
Exclusive of Salaries.						
10—1 Judicial	..			4	12	0
11—1 Colonial Secretary's Office	42	15	6			
11—4 „ „	19	13	4			
				62	8	10
12—1 Works	154	9	0			
12—4 „	35	8	11			
12—5 „	90	6	4			
12—6 „	15	14	6			
				295	18	9
13—1 Police	187	10	3			
13—2 „	22	16	0			
13—3 „	0	15	0			
				211	1	3
14—1 Gaols	..			26	5	0
15—1 Treasury	..			1	19	6
16—2 Customs	7	5	0			
16—3 „	38	8	0			
16—4 „	8	4	4			
				53	17	4
17—1 Native Affairs	6	15	0			
17—3 „	33	6	8			
17—4 „	2	0	0			
17—5 „	15	18	0			
				57	19	3
Supplementary Expenditure	..			25	0	0
Total				3,718	6	11

(Signed) T. HORTON, *Colonial Treasurer.*
C. E. GUNDRY, *Accountant.*

Colonial Treasury, December 31, 1874.

STATEMENT of the Receipts and Expenditure of the Public Account.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Revenue as per detailed Statement ..	4,262	19	11	Expenditure as per detailed Statement	3,718	6	11
Advance from Government of New South Wales, silver coin	1,000	0	0	Credit balance in Fiji Banking and Commercial Company	1,047	3	9
				Cash in hand, consisting of foreign coin, &c.	497	9	3
Total	5,262	19	11	Total	5,262	19	11

(Signed) T. HORTON, *Colonial Treasurer.*
C. E. GUNDRY, *Accountant.*

Colonial Treasury, December 31, 1874.

Inclosure 2 in No. 9.

STATEMENT of Receipts and Expenditure for the Month of December 1874.

REVENUE.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs duties			..	1,287	0	7
Pilotage and light dues			..	53	1	8
Licenses on interinsular trading vessels			..	20	8	0
Native taxes			..	959	1	0
Fees and fines, Central Court			..	34	10	2
Ditto, Court of Petty Sessions			..	17	10	6
Licences to Polynesian immigrant vessels			..	20	0	0

Miscellaneous Revenue.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Rent of printing plant	23	8	6			
Customs Department	21	6	8			
Labour fees	10	12	0			
Postage stamps	25	12	2			
				80	19	4
Total				2,472	11	3

EXPENDITURE.

Establishments.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1. Executive	241	13	4			
2. Judicial	117	10	0			
3. Colonial Secretary's Office	58	6	5			
4. Postal	20	16	8			
5. Police	105	16	10			
6. Gaols	35	0	0			
7. Treasury	16	13	4			
8. Customs	75	0	0			
9. Native Affairs	441	0	0			
				1,112	6	10
Exclusive of Salaries						
10—1. Judicial				4	12	0
11—1. Colonial Secretary	8	8	0			
11—4. Ditto	7	15	4			
				16	3	4
12—1. Works	69	5	0			
12—4. Ditto	26	3	7			
12—5. Ditto	66	8	10			
12—6. Ditto	14	4	6			
				176	1	11
13—1. Police	96	1	1			
13—2. Ditto	22	16	0			
13—3. Ditto	0	15	0			
				119	12	1
14—1. Gaols				21	15	11
15—1. Treasury				1	19	6
16—2. Customs	7	5	0			
16—3. Ditto	23	19	0			
				31	4	0
17—1. Native Affairs	6	15	0			
17—3. Ditto	33	6	3			
17—4. Ditto	2	0	0			
17—5. Ditto	10	0	0			
				52	1	3
Total				1,535	16	10

(Signed) T. HORTON, *Colonial Treasurer.*
C. E. GUNDRY, *Accountant.*

Colonial Treasury, December 31, 1874.

No. 10.

Governor Sir H. Robinson, G.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(*Received April* 12.)

My Lord, *Government House, Sydney, February* 10, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to forward a copy of a despatch which I have just received from Mr. Layard, reporting the result of the interview which he has had with the chiefs and people of the mountain tribes of Viti Levu at Rewa on the 22nd ultimo.

2. Mr. Layard promises a more full report by the next opportunity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERCULES ROBINSON.

Inclosure in No. 10.

Sir, *Government Office, Levuka, January* 25, 1875.

I HAVE great gratification in acquainting you that our proposed meeting with the Kai Tholo Chiefs and people came off on the 22nd instant, having been postponed from the 10th, the day originally fixed, in consequence of the state of the country, the late hurricane rendering travelling impossible.

2. Our meeting was a thorough success—chiefs and people were there who had never been out of their mountain fastnesses in their lives. We estimate that about 500 were present—some say 700. They were very much frightened at first, and some anxiety was expressed by Mr. Carew, who has been our agent to them and got them all together, that many of them would grow faint-hearted and steal away home again, but he prevailed on all to stay, and we brought the meeting to a most satisfactory termination, by inducing five of them to accompany us to Levuka in the steamer, for the purpose of showing them Her Majesty's ship "Dido," the town, and what little civilization we have here. When your Excellency reflects what utter savages these men are, I think you will agree with me that this mark of their confidence is very surprising.

We show them the "Dido" to-morrow, and Captain Chapman has kindly consented to have a little gun-practice. I must not omit to mention the assistance I have received from this officer, who accompanied me up the river with an armed boat and crew, and by the exhibition of some of the modern arts of war, to which I alluded in my speech to the people, contributed very much to the success of our expedition.

3. I will furnish your Excellency with a full report of our whole proceedings by the next mail. I regret to say a sudden seizure of illness precludes my working up the notes taken by my son (the Vice-Consul for Tonga, whom I took as my Secretary), in time for the steamer. Added to this, I have to make preparations for our immediate departure in Her Majesty's ship "Dido," for Mathuata, where, I regret to say, tribal war and murders have again broken out.

4. The Hon. the Colonial Secretary again accompanies me, and we have resolved to bring to Levuka the Chiefs whom we may find have caused the disturbance, and to detain them here till I am furnished with your Excellency's instructions.

5. Mr. Thurston's thorough knowledge of the country, the people, and the language, has enabled him to be of the greatest service to me in this matter of the Kai Colos. He mixed with them freely, learning their sentiments, and putting in a "word in season" with marked effect.

6. The Hon. the Treasurer was also of the party, and the Stipendiary Magistrate of South Viti Levu, and Ra and Yasawas. Messrs. H. Thurston and Eastgate, also Ratus Apeli and Savanatha, and Ratu Kini from Nandi, brought up by Mr. Thurston, and in the opinion of all present, the most thorough good understanding has been come to, and that the seeds sown will have good fruit, and probably save thousands of pounds and many valuable lives hereafter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. L. LAYARD,
Administrator of the Government of Fiji.

His Excellency Sir Hercules G. R. Robinson, K.C.M.G.,
Governor of New South Wales and Fiji.

No. 11.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor Sir H. Robinson, G.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, April* 20, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 19th of February,* inclosing statements of the receipts and expenditure of the Colony of Fiji from the 11th of October to the 31st of December, 1874, and also for the month of December.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 12.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, April* 26, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you, for your information, a copy of a despatch from Sir Hercules Robinson,† together with a copy of the reply which I have returned

* No. 9. † Nos. 10 and 13.

to it, relating to the meeting of Mr. Layard on the 22nd January last with the Chiefs and people of the mountain tribes of the Viti Levu.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 13.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor Sir H. Robinson, G.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, April 26, 1875.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 10th of February,* inclosing one from Mr. Layard giving an account of his meeting with the Chiefs and people of the mountain tribes of Viti Levu on the 22nd of January last.

I have noticed with much satisfaction the success which attended the steps taken on this occasion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 14.

Colonial Office to Treasury.

Sir, *Downing Street, May 1, 1875.*

I AM directed by the Earl of Carnarvon to request that you will state to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury that his Lordship would be glad to be informed whether the proposal which was made in my letter to you of the 25th of February,† in respect of the grant of an Imperial guarantee for the interest of a loan to be raised for the Colony of Fiji, or an advance in aid of the Colonial revenue, has received their Lordships' consideration, and in which form it is thought preferable to give the required financial assistance.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. H. MEADE.

No. 15.

Governor Sir H. Robinson, G.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received May 10.)

My Lord, *Government House, Sydney, March 17, 1875.*

IN continuation of my despatch of 10th February, 1875,* I have now the honour to forward to your Lordship a copy of a despatch, with its inclosures, which I have received from Mr. Layard, containing a detailed account of his interview with the Chiefs of the mountain tribes of Viti Levu.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERCULES ROBINSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 15.

Sir, *Government Office, Levuka, February 5, 1875.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 25th January, I have now the honour to forward to your Excellency a detailed statement of my proceedings on the occasion of my meeting the Chiefs of the mountain tribes at Navuso on the 22nd of January.

2. I left Levuka in the steamer "Pride of Viti," which was chartered for the purpose, in company with the members of the Executive Council; Captain Chapman, of Her Majesty's ship "Dido," whom, with their approval, I had asked to be present; Mr. H. Thurston, the Magistrate of the district; my son, the Vice-Consul for Tonga, who acted as my Secretary, taking notes of the proceedings; and Lieutenant Olive, R.N., in charge of a small number of the native armed police, as a guard of honour. We had in tow an armed cutter belonging to Her Majesty's ship "Dido."

* No. 10. † No. 5.

3. We reached Navuso just at night-fall, and found the landing-place crowded with townspeople and mountaineers, who, with the exception of four or five, had all cut off their huge heads of hair, cherished since their birth, in token of their submission. The native guard was landed, and received me with the usual honours, the natives crouching in the usual Fijian fashion signifying respect.

4. I was met by Mr. Eastgate, the Magistrate of Ra, and the Yasawas; Mr. Carew, the gentleman who had been our messenger to the tribes; and Ratu Kini, the powerful old Chief of Nandronga, who had brought up five of the mountain Chiefs of his district; and some of the neighbouring planters. Mr. Carew, in the course of a long chat, informed me with regard to the points on which the mountaineers required information. To these, your Excellency will see, I have alluded in my speech.

5. The next morning the Chiefs were summoned to a friendly conference in the house in which we had stayed, and I must now refer your Excellency to the notes taken by Mr. L. Layard, who acted as my secretary (which I hereto annex), which fully detail what took place.

6. Our conference with the natives seems, from what we could gather from them in familiar conversation, to have given them great satisfaction. The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Thurston, whose able assistance I again desire especially to bring to your Excellency's notice, mingled freely with them, and ascertained their feelings and sentiments. They seem to have dreaded chiefly that new laws which they did not understand would be thrust suddenly on them; and chiefly that they would be forced to put away their wives, if they "lotued," or accepted teachers among them, and that they would be fined if they did not go to school and church. My assurances to the contrary seem greatly to have relieved their minds.

7. Mr. Thurston selected ten of them to accompany us to Levuka, to see something of civilization; and when your Excellency reflects that the majority of the crowd that met us had never before been even as far as Navuso, on account of the tribal feuds between them, I think you will agree with me that they showed great confidence in us.

8. We remained over Saturday to see them all safe away on their return to their homes, and I took advantage of the delay to visit the Wai-Manu River, on the mouth of which tributary of the Rewa Navuso is situated. I was much gratified to see the extent of cultivated land on this river, and the magnificent sugar-cane growing there; it had, I regret to say, suffered somewhat severely during the late hurricane, but if any mills had been in the neighbourhood the majority might have been utilized.

9. On Sunday morning with the early tide we returned to Levuka. The astonishment of the natives at the movement of the machinery propelling the paddle-wheels was very amusing, as were also their exclamations at their first sight of the sea.

10. On Monday the Chiefs paid a visit to the "Vuni Valu" at Drai-emba, which was very pleasant and satisfactory; and on Tuesday, the 26th ultimo, they should have visited the "Dido," but were prevented by the inclemency of the weather; however, the next day (Wednesday) we had a most successful visit.

11. Captain Chapman, whose assistance to me throughout I beg gratefully to acknowledge, exercised the men at great-gun and small-arm drill, firing shot and shell, making excellent practice. And I think these manifestations of our power will have a very salutary effect on the minds of these people. They were shown over the ship, and, after a group of them had been photographed round the large several inch guns, so that they might take back to their homes a memento of their visit, which would aid them in explaining to their people what they had seen, I had them conveyed on shore, and showed them over my own residence, that they might see how the white men lived. They were then confided to the care of Ratu Apeli, who, during our absence on the Mathuata coast, conveyed them back to their homes *viâ* Bau.

12. I had photographs taken of our public meeting at Navuso, of which I beg to inclose copies, thinking that illustrations of so interesting an event as the voluntary entrance into the pale of civilization, law, and order, of these hitherto irreclaimable savages would gratify your Excellency, and perhaps meet with a gracious acceptance at the hands of Her Majesty the Queen, who will, I feel sure, be glad to know that the moment her Sovereignty is proclaimed over these Islands, cannibalism, infanticide, the strangling of widows, murder, &c., are renounced by the only savage remnant of the races that people them.

13. I have incurred an expenditure of 81*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* in carrying out this expedition. It is in excess of the sum that I originally informed your Excellency that I should require, but I felt—and in this my Council fully coincided—that this was an occasion and an opportunity that we should not neglect, and that what we did should be

thoroughly done. We all feel that it has been a great success, and will bear good fruit in the future. Mr. Carew deserves your Excellency's commendation for the way he has brought these people within our influence. I have caused my thanks to be officially conveyed to him, besides acknowledging them privately. Much is also due, I conceive, in the submission of these tribes, to the sound thrashing they lately received at the hands of the troops of the late Government, under command of Major Harding, when at least 3,000 of them attacked his small force of 210 men, and were ably out-generalled and beaten by him. He and 100 of these men were at my request conveyed to the coast (from whence they marched into the interior), by Her Majesty's ship "Renard."

14. For the first time, the mountaineers have met the Government, many of their old native enemies, and white men, as friends; and, while they have seen our strength, they have been assured that it will be exerted to protect as well as punish them; that we wish them to dwell in peace; and that when wholly in our power they have been allowed to go scathless, as we do not practise treachery.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. L. LAYARD, *Administrator.*

His Excellency Sir Hercules G. R. Robinson, K.C.M.G.,
Governor of New South Wales and Fiji.

Inclosure 2 in No. 15.

Minutes of Proceedings at a Meeting with Mountain Chiefs from interior Viti Levu, at Navuso, on the Rewa River, on the 22nd January, 1875.

SIXTY-NINE of the Chiefs being assembled in the spacious house of Audi Kuila, the King's daughter, Mr. Carew spoke to them and said he had brought down their message to the Governor that they wished to give up the country to the British Government, and come under the law and the "Lotu;"* and that now the Governor had come up, with his Council, to hear this from themselves, and to talk with them, and explain to them such points as they wished explained.

Ro Saro, one of the principal native Chiefs, said,—Yes; it was right. They had come to give themselves to Britain. They were all of the same mind; and what they said, that they would do.

Several of the principal Chiefs were here introduced to the Administrator, and came up to shake hands with him, crouching in the Fijian attitude of respect.

His Honour then spoke to the following effect:—

He had come up at their request to see and to speak with them, and his Council were there to confirm by their presence that the words he spoke would be true. (Here the Members of the Council were indicated to them, as also Captain Chapman, of Her Majesty's ship "Dido," who, at the Administrator's request, had accompanied the party.) His Honour continued:—He was glad to see the Chiefs present, and to hear that so many of the principal men from the mountains were here, as it was a proof of the confidence they had in the British Government. He hoped they would often, in the future, meet the Government officials, both European and native, who would be accessible to them whenever they wished. This was a beginning of friendship, and the Government wished them to have perfect confidence in it, and they might depend that whatever the Government promised or said, it would do. He would now explain to them about the cession of Fiji to Great Britain. The possession of these islands was not sought by Great Britain, but was a voluntary gift on the part of all the great chiefs who represented the people. In taking possession of the islands, consequent on that offer, Her Majesty the Queen had no other object in view than the good of the inhabitants. (Cries of "venaka! venaka!" [very good!].) The Queen thought all disorders might be prevented, and Christianity and civilization promoted. In order to do this, the acts of the old Government had not all been swept away, but a new and much more powerful Government engrafted on it,—because Great Britain was a far stronger country.

They had heard that the laws would be administered to the native tribes by their own Chiefs; this was true. Some of their Chiefs would be appointed by Government to rule them (a white officer would hereafter be placed with them), and this would show them that Great Britain did not wish suddenly to do away with their native customs, only those repugnant to civilization. The British Government did not wish to force suddenly on them any laws they did not understand.

* Christianity.

He had come to meet them that they might themselves ask questions upon any point on which they might want information. Had heard from Mr. Carew about some of these points; and with regard to cannibalism, murder, infanticide, and the strangling of widows, Great Britain would not allow them to go on in any country where it had power. All the coast tribes had adopted the laws against these things, and they must do the same. The coast tribes lived in peace with each other; they must do the same, and with the coast people; and leave off their intertribal wars, such as stealing women, clubbing men, robbery, and such like.

They might be sure the Government was strong enough, and would severely punish people who committed such acts. If any tribe went to war, and disturbed the public peace, it would bring on itself its utter ruin. They knew how punishment had fallen on tribes that had committed murder,—such as that of Mr. Baker, the Burnes family and others. The Government would let "bygones be bygones," and, if they behaved themselves, would not call them to account for these things; but if any tribe who had done these things was again guilty of the like, double punishment would fall on it. The coast tribes, too, would bury the past, and let them have free passage to the sea, when and where they liked, and they would come and go on their lands,—but in this they must reciprocate,—and the Government and its officers would go where they liked; and it was their duty to be hospitable and kind to travellers in their country, and they would also be well received when they travelled. No outrages would be permitted: and they must understand and remember that if the Government was strong to punish outrage on their part, it was equally strong to protect them from outrage.

They were here asked if they understood what had been said to them, and if they had any questions to ask. They replied, through Ro Saro, that they quite understood.—Ratu Kini had been explaining, in the true mountain dialect, when he thought there was any doubt or difficulty; the Honourable the Colonial Secretary having also occasionally supplemented Mr. Carew's explanation.—They had said before, and repeated it, they were hill-men, and stuck to their word, and were not like the coast Chiefs who said one thing at one time, and another thing afterwards. Mountain Chiefs spake once for all! About polygamy? They could not live without their women; the Chiefs especially, who had to show hospitality to those who came, the women cooked food, got water, and waited on them.)

His Honour resumed:—He was very glad, indeed, to hear that they were men of their word, and hoped they would prove so, having placed themselves under the British Government. He would revert to the polygamy question hereafter; but he had heard some of them were anxious about taxation. The British Government had already shown how desirous it was to promote the welfare of the people, by its consideration of their circumstances, and had appointed the amount of taxation in the different districts in relation to the facility of obtaining money in those districts. In one, they had fixed the tax at 10*s.*, because money was plentiful; in another, it was 7*s* 6*d.*; in another, 5*s.*, because money was hard to get.

The Government knew that they had very little or no money in the mountains, and that it would be impossible for them to pay even in produce, as it could not be removed; but as every one was bound to contribute to the public good,—the good of the country,—the Government had provided a method by which, while contributing to that general good, each district which could not pay might, at the same time, be benefiting itself. It allowed the people to commute their tax for labour on public works,—such as making roads and bridges, and building houses for public use of Government officers, courts, and such like. (They here exclaimed they well understood, and it was customary among themselves.) His Honour went on:—The only tax the Government would now exact from them would be making good roads through their districts, for the benefit of travellers; then European traders would come up and bring cloth, and axes, and knives, and trade of all kinds, and take their produce in exchange, and they could carry their produce to the coast. All over the world, roads were the great means of civilization, by bringing people together and making them friends. He should estimate their goodwill to the British Government by the way they carried this out, and made roads. (Cries of "They would make roads!") Well, they must also let people pass along the roads without robbing or murdering them. If they did not, they would be severely punished. The British Government had only lately punished a nation that was very powerful and numerous,—that had hundreds of men where they had one man,—for murder and human sacrifice. The British soldiers went and utterly destroyed their great towns, and made them pay a very heavy fine. If they provoked the British Government to anger, thousands of soldiers

could be sent against them, with weapons of which they knew nothing,—one of which would be shown them presently,—by which their strongest and highest hill towns would be destroyed, as easily as this house could be burned. The little wars they had seen would be nothing to what then would happen. The Europeans were as the pebbles in the brooks, or the blades of grass on that hill-side in number, and they (the mountaineers) would be swept from off the face of the earth. On the other hand, if any one injured or oppressed them, the strength of the Government would be put out to defend them. Every man's life, be he a white man or a black man, was sacred to the Government, and cared for by it; that is the reason why the Government was so particular about murder and bloodshed, and would equally punish a white man if he hurt any one of them.

The captain of the man-of-war sitting at his side would, if any of them came down to Levuka, show them the war-ship and the big guns. (Some here exclaimed they would like it very much).

They had touched on polygamy. At present the Government would not interfere with it. There were other nations under the British Government wherein polygamy was tolerated; but if they accepted the "Lotu" from their hearts, they would find out that one woman was enough for one man for his wife. There was one thing, however, the Government would not permit—a woman being forced against her will. If any woman complained that she had been carried away forcibly, the Government would punish the persons who did it. He would be very glad to hear that they had accepted the "Lotu," but they would not be compelled to accept it; religion would be forced on no man, neither should they be fined for not going to church or to school, as he heard some of them feared they would be. No one could fine them, being British subjects, except the properly appointed Government officials, and only then for committing offences recognized by law. (Some war-rockets were here brought in and explained to them, and some of the Chiefs took them from Captain Chapman, and showed them round to the others. Captain Chapman said he would fire one presently, to show how it would reach their highest towns). His honour said, before they parted, the Colonial Secretary had reminded him of one thing. One of the most serious causes of quarrel with them had arisen from the feeling among them that if a man came to them, no matter what great evil he had done—murder, or forcing women, or what not—they considered themselves bound to protect him from the just punishment his crimes deserved, and refused to give him up. This would no longer be tolerated. His Honour then told the Chiefs that he had now finished for the present; if any one desired to ask a question, let him do so, and he would answer him; he should expect an expression of their intentions, and a reply as to whether or not they would live in peace. The Chiefs proposed that they should retire and talk amongst themselves, which was agreed to, his Honour appointing four o'clock in the afternoon for a public meeting in the "Rara," or village square.

The meeting then adjourned, and the Chiefs and people proceeded to the river bank, where the cutter of Her Majesty's ship "Dido" was stationed with the rocket-tube. A 24-pound rocket was then fired at its highest elevation, and the gush of fire at starting, and the black mass plainly visible moving through the air, belching out fire and smoke, caused the greatest surprise and consternation, many of them screaming with fear. His Honour again assured some of the Chiefs near him that England's power would be used for their protection as well as punishment.

At 4 P.M. on the same day, the whole of the mountaineers being assembled in the "Rara," or public square of the town, under temporary covered booths, his Honour the Administrator, attended by the Executive Council, Captain Chapman, and his Aide-de-Camp, Sub-Lieutenant Bremer, Mr. H. Thurston, the Magistrate of the district, Mr. Eastgate, the Magistrate of Ra and the Yasawas, Mr. L. Layard, the Vice-Consul for Tonga (acting as his Honour's Secretary, to take notes), Mr. Carew, Ratus Apeli, Savanatha, Kini, and some of the neighbouring planters, entered the square, and was received by a guard of honour, under Lieutenant Olive, R.N., in command of the native armed constabulary. When the party were seated, Ratu Apeli (the late King's eldest son), as had been previously arranged, stepped forward and addressed the people, and said:—

"Chiefs of the Mountain and Inland Tribes, you have heard what the Governor said this morning. What he said is the wish and determination also of us the Fijian Chiefs, who are officers of the Government.

"I wish to say something to you at this meeting, for to-day is the beginning of a new era; the past is buried, and *we* shall not dig it up again—take care that *you* do not.

You have killed many of our people and many white men; we have killed many, very many, of your people, and destroyed your towns and plantations. We are anxious and ready to begin a period of friendship with you.

"We Chiefs of Fiji have given our country, Fiji, to the Queen of England; we have done it unanimously, and we are now under her laws. I wish to tell you that those laws affect all men and classes alike. If a Chief does wrong, he is amenable to the law; if a common man does wrong, he will be punished the same as a Chief, but neither more nor less. The law will not protect the Chief and oppress the commoner, but, like sunshine, it will fall upon all men alike. I want to impress this upon you, that you may go back and explain it to your people in the hills. There is no scheming or treachery in these proceedings; the object of the Government is to benefit and protect everybody, not to oppress or take anything away from them.

"I am very glad of this day's event, and I think good things will result from it. Do not you people, however, make a mistake. The Government of this country is now stronger than ever it has been. Formerly this country was darkened by clouds, then came a time when some of the clouds broke up, and we had some sunshine—we lived in comparative peace. Now, under the Queen's rule, we, with the exception of one little cloud, have a clear and open sky. You are the little cloud, and that little cloud must clear itself away.

"Do not go back to your hills and forget what has taken place to-day. Let the ending of this meeting be the beginning of peace and friendship between us.

"I have finished."

He was followed by Ratu Savanatha, who said:—

"You Chiefs and people of the mountains, Chiefs from Dawaran, Muya Malo, Na Vosa, and other tribes, let me say something that will be useful to us all.

"This is the age of law, the age of light, and the day when every man must make himself useful. He who will not put away the darkness from his mind, must bear the consequences. I will tell you the consequence of trying to continue our evil Fijian customs, the customs which are interdicted (taboo'd) by the Queen's laws—the consequence is ruin. There must be no more murder, no more poisonings, no more stranglings, no more infanticide, no more abduction of women, no more of those devilish practices that make Fijians contemptible and hated things in the eyes of good white men.

"We of the coast have given up these things. We have been taught a true religion, and now know the evil of what we formerly did. You must learn to be religious—you must give up heathenism. Ratu Abel has told you his mind, and therefore I have not much to say. Do not suppose, because I say you must give up murdering and eating one another, that I want to threaten you; I only want to tell you, in a friendly way, of your foolishness. You have asked about your lands and the laws, and also about your women. Ratu Abel has told you about the law, and the Governor has said that you shall have fair time to learn the law, and know what is required of you. As for the land, I have to say this, that it is quite true that we have given our country and ourselves to the Queen of England—her's is the law, the land, and the people; we have given it. Yet we have lost nothing. This is not like our Fijian custom. With us, when a Chief accepts a thing, he takes it away. The Queen accepts the country, but she does not take it away—it remains to us, and (as Mr. Layard has said) no one will interfere between you and your people so long as you act as he, or some other Governor, directs you, and not according to your own foolish notions.

"This is the end of my speaking."

Ratu Kini then addressed them, in the dialect of the mountains, in an emphatic, animated speech; he was understood to explain and reiterate what the other Chiefs had said.

Then followed Napoleoni, who stood forward and said:—

"I wish to draw attention to one matter upon which the two Chiefs who have just spoken did not touch. There is one principal source of trouble in Fiji, and that is the jealousy (veingati) or jealous emulation of Chiefs and tribes. When a man commits the crime of killing some one, or drags away (abducts) a woman, he runs away to some tribe for shelter. This tribe foolishly considering itself duty-bound to protect him, it will not give him up to be judged and punished. Very often the officers sent after him are insulted and driven away, and then force is used by the Government to arrest him. By-and-bye it becomes a small or a great war, and many people are killed. This was the way, the year before last, when the Viria and Waibalou people massacred the inhabitants of Sangumugunu. The Government sent for the murderers, and all your

tribes came in and sheltered them. This led to war, the destruction of Viria and Waikalou, the confiscation of their lands, and great loss and damage to yourselves, for the Government has been at war with you ever since.

"Now, my advice is that, in the future, you give up every one who offends against the law; that you respect the officers of police sent after criminals; and that you give them up without delay. Do not think or try to protect them; give up your "veingati," which will only get you into trouble; give up your false sense of importance and strength, because you are not strong, but weak. This is all I have to say; I am glad to be at this meeting, and to hear you agree to what the Governor has said, for now we are one people under the Queen of Britain, and under one law.

"I have finished."

Manu Marni ni Vundi, the Buli of Na Kasikawa tribe, and Nindame, the Chief of Na Lawa, also addressed the meeting.

His Honour then concluded, and wound up the meeting in the following terms:—He was glad to see so many people from the mountains, and to be able to speak to them; that morning he had met all their head Chiefs, and had explained to them what they wished to know and what they had to do; they would repeat his words to their tribes; it now rested with themselves whether they would obey the laws, live peaceably and be happy, or, by doing evil, bring upon themselves punishment and extermination. The Chiefs had told him they were men of their word, and had given the country to the Queen. Ratu Savanatha had explained to them how the Queen possessed the land, and he, in Her Majesty's name, would therefore send the Government officers, white and native, up and down through the country, and they must treat them properly.

They, too, could travel freely over the land, come down to the coast, or to Levuka, or Bau without fear; no one should harm them. They were free to come and go on the Queen's land. That was the use she made of it. They could come to Levuka to the Governor when they wished to tell him anything, and he would always receive them. As long as they behaved well and lived peaceably, as the Chiefs who had spoken to them had said, all the old things would be forgotten—buried—and a new time would begin in friendship. He was the mouth of the Queen to them, and the Council was with him to confirm the truth of what he had said by their presence. He hoped that their meeting together, with the words he had spoken, would bear good fruit. When the roads were opened, he would come up and see them again in their own towns.

His Honour then, accompanied by Mr. Carew, walked round and spoke to many of the people. Selecting one man who was conspicuous by a deep dent in his forehead, and almost blind, he asked how that terrible wound had been occasioned. His Honour was told it was a club wound, and he took occasion to remark that he hoped such things had now ceased for ever, at which there was a murmur of "Venaka, venaka."

Ratu Savanatha then presented to the Chief whales' teeth and mats on the part of himself and the other Chiefs, and a present of cloth and long 16-inch knives on the part of the Government, all of which were received with gusts of acclamation, and the usual rythmical clapping of hands, and the meeting adjourned till the evening, when a blue light summoned all to the river's bank. Three 24-pound war rockets were thrown up with splendid effect, the whole length of the long "reach" of the stream. Some of the mountaineers threw themselves flat on the ground and screamed with terror, the shouts of astonishment of the multitude being heard a long distance up the Wai Manu.

No. 16.

Governor Sir H. Robinson, G.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(*Received May* 10.)

My Lord, *Government House, Sydney, March* 17, 1875.

I REGRET to have to inform your Lordship that measles have broken out in Fiji with some violence. The disease has taken an epidemic form, and has proved fatal in many cases among the natives.

2. I inclose three despatches which I have received from Mr. Layard on the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERCULES ROBINSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 16.

Sir, *Government House, Fiji, February* 12, 1875.

I REGRET having to acquaint you that, since the arrival here of Her Majesty's ship "Dido," the measles, for the first time, has made its appearance in Fiji.

2. Up to the present moment, the sickness has confined itself to the native people, but is spreading fast beyond Levuka, and will most probably run through the whole country. Fortunately, it presents itself in a comparatively mild form.

3. The Colonial Secretary informs me that there are nearly 100 of the native constables down with it, and hence I have had to authorize some small expenditure for medical and sanitary requirements, and the engagement of a wardsman. Unless watched the men have a tendency to walk into water by way of reducing the fever under which they suffer.

4. In some cases an acute dysentery has followed this act, and I have therefore caused brief instructions for the treatment of the sickness to be printed in the Fijian language and sent among the native population. The Health Officer, Dr. Cruickshank, has been most assiduous in his attentions to the sick men, and I trust I may soon be able to report the re-establishment of general health.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. L. LAYARD, *Administrator.*

His Excellency Sir Hercules Robinson, K.C.M.G.,
Governor of New South Wales and Fiji.

P.S.—Since this was written, I regret to say several Europeans, adults as well as young people, have been attacked.

E. L. L.

Inclosure 2 in No. 16.

Sir, *Government House, Fiji, February* 25, 1875.

I REGRET to have to inform you that the measles, so unfortunately introduced into this Colony by the Vuni Valu and his sons, on their return from Sydney in Her Majesty's ship "Dido," have spread to an alarming extent, in spite of every precaution we have been able to take since it first broke out.

2. I have to deplore the loss of Ratu Savanatha, one of the ablest, most intelligent, and amiable of the native Chiefs; one who thoroughly appreciated the good that might be derived from the introduction of English rule, and understood our position here, as exemplified in his speech to the Kai Tholos at Navuso, reported to your Excellency in a previous despatch. His loss as a trusted servant of the Government cannot be too much deplored at this moment.

3. As the "Fiji Times" has published an article on the introduction of the disease, and endeavoured to throw the blame on the Colonial Secretary, I deem it my duty to acquaint your Excellency with the circumstances under which the Vuni Valu and his sons were allowed to land without those precautions which I now see, too late, should have been taken, of the necessity of which I was unaware.

4. Her Majesty's ship "Dido" arrived here on the 12th January, 1875. She came in as usual, without any yellow flag flying, indicative of having an infectious disease on board. The moment she anchored, I, in company with the Colonial Secretary and my son, the Vice-Consul, boarded her from our own boat, with a native crew, who also came freely on board, and mingled with the other natives without any attempt being made to restrain either us or them. Her own boats were also immediately put in the water, and almost immediately communicated with the shore.

5. Captain Chapman shook hands with me, and told me the doctor had something to tell me. We walked into his cabin, and there found the Vuni Valu, with whom we shook hands, as we did with Ratus Timothy and Joseph, and the other natives. Dr. Goodman took me aside, and informed me that Ratus Timothy and Joseph had had measles, and one of them also had venereal disease.

6. I did not look upon the information, from the way it was given, as a warning or a caution, or, in fact, as an "official communication," but just as a "something" I should know. I was more shocked to hear of the venereal disease than of the other, of which I thought little; but I said, "Cannot you keep them on board until we get some place to put them in?" Dr. Goodman said, hesitatingly, "No; they had no means of doing so" and added that they were now quite well, and had been so for some

days. The conversation now became general, and the thing was treated as a joke, no caution was given me or the Colonial Secretary of the danger of infection. Other shore boats and canoes had now come with Europeans and natives, who were allowed free access to the ship, and their own boat went ashore before I left the ship. Ratus Timothy and Joseph and others had gone ashore in their own boats. I confess I had no idea of any danger. I have never yet been in a position to witness similar results from the disease, and, not being a medical man, could not be expected to know the probable effects of allowing these people, reported well for some days, to go ashore.

7. That Dr. Goodman could not think seriously of the disease is shown in the fact that, beyond the mere report of the existence of it, he never advised me to take any precautions; never suggested any; allowed every one to communicate freely with the ship; allowed the passengers to go ashore without any remonstrance; and, finally, has allowed the embarkation of 100 Polynesians in her, to return to their homes.

8. If the seeds of the disease are carried by them to the Polynesian Islands, the effects will be most disastrous among the natives. I have just stayed the shipment of 150 per "Loelia," with whose owner I had all but completed an advantageous agreement, inasmuch as he would not have brought labour back, desiring to proceed to the Colonies for some repairs to his vessel. I also took upon myself to refuse to allow a vessel to clear for Samoa with native passengers on board, and, on their being disembarked, only granted clearance to the vessel on her receiving a clear bill of health from the medical officer, and entering into a bond to approach Samoa with a yellow flag flying, and not to communicate with the shore until an official Report had been made to the British Consul (to whom I also wrote very strongly in a private letter), and she had been inspected by him, and pronounced clean.

9. I have thus done all I can to prevent its spreading to other groups of islands, but to stay its progress here is impossible—it is *everywhere*. The natives will not do as they are told, but will expose themselves to cold and wet, to allay the feverishness. Some actually creep away at night from the guard we have stationed over them, and go and lie down in the sea or creeks; this brings on dysentery and congestion of the lungs, of which Ratu Savanatha died. We have published and distributed plain directions for its treatment; but, I regret to say, some evilly-disposed white persons have told the natives not to take our medicines, as they were only meant to augment the disease, which has been purposely introduced to enable us to kill them, and get their lands.

10. I inclose statements by my son and the Colonial Secretary as to what occurred on board Her Majesty's ship "Dido," and their impression of the whole affair.

11. Since the above was written I have learnt that the steamer "Wentworth," which arrived here from Sydney, *viâ* New Caledonia, had the measles on board, and that during the voyage a child of Mrs. Tate, of Taviuni, and its native nurse (a man), died from the effects of it. Mrs. Tate took her surviving child to the house of a Mr. Moore of this town, and all his children were attacked by it. This has been kept as quiet as possible, and the introduction of the disease thrown upon the shoulders of myself and the Colonial Secretary.

12. Yesterday, in Council, I appointed Dr. Cruickshank (the medical officer), Health Officer for the town, and Captain Headstrom (the Harbour-Master), Assistant Health Officer, to board all vessels entering the port, and enforce the quarantine regulations of New South Wales.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. L. LAYARD, *Administrator*.

His Excellency Sir Hercules Robinson, K.C.M.G.,
Governor of New South Wales and Fiji.

P.S.—I have discovered that the "Western Star," also from Sydney, had the measles on board on her arrival, and, singularly enough, communicated it through a son of a Mr. Bucknell to another son of Mr. G. Moore, while at Luva. Attempts are being made to hush up this case also by interested parties.

I inclose copy of a notice we have caused to be printed and published, and which the Assistant Health Officer will take with him to all vessels entering the port.

E. L. L.

Inclosure 3 in No. 16.

Memorandum.

REFERRING to the arrival of Her Majesty's ship "Dido" with Thakobau and his sons Ratus, Timothy, and Joseph, and the introduction by them of the measles into this Colony, I have the honour to state that upon arrival of Her Majesty's ship "Dido" (12th January) I accompanied his Honour the Administrator on board, and together with Mr. Leo. Layard ascended the side as soon as the side ladder was secured. His Honour, upon reaching the deck, walked aft to the cabin with Captain Chapman. I stood for a few minutes in the gangway chatting with Lieutenants Ducat and (I believe) Knox. By them I was informed that the ex-King and his sons were "all right," but Timothy and Joseph had contracted the venereal disease. I then went aft and shook hands with Thakobau, who almost at once told me the same thing, and called my attention to the sons' lean condition. Joseph told me they were well excepting a slight cough. His Honour and Dr. Goodman were conversing upon a sofa near me, and I heard the word "measles," and most certainly the word "convalescent," but did not pay attention to, nor join in, the conversation at that time. Subsequently I did clearly understand that some of the natives had had the measles, and also understood that the people were convalescent, and that they might go on shore. Thakobau was asked within ten minutes of our going on board whether he would send for his large canoe, or whether he would land in one of the "Dido's" boats. He said in a boat, and the first or second cutter being lowered, he, his people, and a quantity of baggage, were at once landed at Draiba village. My opinion is that neither Captain Chapman nor Dr. Goodman thought there was any danger in their landing, and certainly none was ever hinted. Prior to the landing of Thakobau my boat's crew had been freely admitted on board, and had mingled with Thakobau's servants. Had any conviction existed in the mind of the doctor as to the probable, and we now know certain, effects of this unhappy landing, surely some very distinct caution and some unmistakeable recommendation would have been made. As none such was, to the best of my knowledge and belief, ever made, and as the ex-King was landed almost as soon as the ship's anchor was down, and as natives from the shore were unhesitatingly admitted to instant communication with the ex-King and party, I can only conclude that the ordinary caution and warning given when sickness prevails on shipboard was not considered at all necessary in this instance.

I regret to say that some malevolent person or persons have circulated a rumour among the native population that the introduction of the epidemic has been intentional on the part of the Government, and the "Fiji Times," which has lately taken to printing mischievous sentences in the Fijian language, refers to it as a part of my native policy. As to the former I do not find that the natives believe it, though at this moment they are certainly open to doubts; the latter I treat with profound contempt, though I think it will become necessary for the Government to consider whether a journal shall be permitted to continue a longer career of personal and party abuse and attack, in which it does not hesitate to insinuate ideas of a most dangerous tendency in order to gratify the disappointed and cavilling portion of this community.

(Signed) JOHN B. THURSTON,
Colonial Secretary.

February 26, 1875.

Inclosure 4 in No. 16.

Memorandum.

Levuka, February 26, 1875.

WITH regard to your request that I would put in writing what took place on board Her Majesty's ship "Dido" upon her arrival in this port from Sydney, I can state:—

1st. That the "Dido" entered the port of Levuka without any plague flag flying.

2ndly. That the "Dido's" boats were lowered at the same time as the anchor, and at once communicated with the shore.

3rdly. That no impediment was offered to our native crew from the Government boat mixing with the friends on board.

4thly. When we were on board Dr. Goodman told you that Ratu Timothy, son of the ex-King, had the measles, and another native also, you at once requested him to

keep these infected persons on board until you could take measures to have them kept in strict isolation. He replied that they could not be kept on board, that they were "convalescent," and that there was no danger of infection, and treated the whole matter as a joke.

5thly. That very shortly after the "Dido" had anchored the infected persons, with their personal effects and native servants, were put into the launch and landed at the ex-King's residence in the native town of Drainba.

(Signed) LEO. LAYARD, *Vice-Consul for Tonga.*

His Honour E. L. Layard,
Administrator, &c., &c., &c.

Inclosure 5 in No. 16.

QUARANTINE LAWS.

Notice.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Levuka, February 25, 1875.

HIS Honour the Administrator of the Government, by and with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to direct it to be notified that the several provisions of the Acts of Parliament of New South Wales, 3 Wm. IV, No. 1, and 17 Vict., No. 29, relating to quarantine will be strictly enforced.

Particular attention is directed to the several clauses hereafter summarised, that is to say,—

"All vessels arriving from places beyond the Colony, and all boats or vessels receiving from or out of such vessel any person, goods, merchandize, packages, baggage, books, letters, or other articles that shall have come in any such vessel, or such person or articles as shall have gone or been put on board any such vessel, either before or after arrival, shall be liable to quarantine, and to such order or orders which shall be made by the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council.

"That the Governor, with advice aforesaid, may make such order as shall be deemed necessary upon any unforeseen emergency or particular case.

"That the master of any vessel arriving as aforesaid refusing to answer such questions as may be put by the Health Officer or other person shall be liable to a penalty of 300*l.*, or two years' imprisonment.

"That any person quitting or communicating with any vessel placed in quarantine until such vessel has been admitted to pratique shall be liable to penalties of 100*l.* and 50*l.* respectively.

"That persons liable to quarantine may be arrested."

By command,
(Signed) JOHN B. THURSTON,
Colonial Secretary.

Inclosure 6 in No. 16.

Sir, *Government House, Fiji, March* 3, 1875.

I HAVE the honour herewith to forward a Report from the Honourable the Colonial Secretary respecting the spread of the prevalent epidemic measles.

2. I cannot speak in too high terms of the unremitting exertions made by Mr. Thurston in endeavouring to combat the spread of the disease among the natives and to establish confidence among them, but it has burst forth with such virulence, simultaneously at so many points, that all efforts have been nugatory. I regret to say, moreover, that the wicked statements published by the "Fiji Times" have been, I fear, retailed to the natives with the vilest motives. In one issue of the "Fiji Times" it was insinuated that it was Mr. Thurston's native policy to introduce this fell disease, and that if Mr. Swanston had been retained in office it would not have occurred. Comment is unnecessary.

3. With very few exceptions, no one has come forward to help the Government. Mr. Olive, the Superintendent of Police, has been untiring in his exertions to the injury of his own health. William Berwick, the Messenger of the Native Department, has been doing good service at Bau; and I hear Mr. Webb, the Wesleyan Minister there, has also bestirred himself. Here the Missionary has done nothing, though his

people have been so afflicted. Mr. Floyd, the Clergyman of the Church of England, yesterday volunteered to help, stating that he could no longer see such misery and remain idle, though the people are not of his flock; of course I gladly welcomed him as an assistant, and directed him to communicate at once with, and act under, Dr. Harwood, to whom we have committed the care of the north end of the town. Mr. Brookes, the late Wesleyan Minister of Tavunu, has also, since his severance from the Wesleyan body, placed his services at our disposal. Dr. Cruickshank is at work day and night.

4. Tui Levuka's eldest child is dead, but Dr. Harwood's report this morning is that the people of Levuka (native town) "are nearly all convalescent." There are several cases of adult Europeans in town; none fatal.

5. I fear we shall have sad accounts from the interior. Mr. Harding reports from the centre of the mountains of Viti Levu that all the Chiefs who came down to Levuka at my invitation have it, and that it is spreading rapidly. They attribute it to poison and treachery. Mr. Harding, at the imminent risk of his life, is remaining among them to endeavour to restore confidence. A more unfortunate thing could not have happened, and it will be most difficult to restore the good tone of feeling with which the meeting broke up at Navuso. I dare not make any move in the mountains yet, and think Mr. Harding most rash to remain alone as he is doing; but he writes that he is determined to brave it out, and show them his confidence, even if he falls a sacrifice to their mistaken revenge. Mr. Harding is not employed by the Government in any way; he is in the mountains of his own free will, and living with those whom he previously fought and thrashed, and to whom he is perfectly well known.

6. I have of course authorized the issue of medicines and food to those whom we can reach. The attacks have been so sudden and complete that every soul in a village will be down at once, and no one able to procure food, or, if procured, to cook it for themselves or others. The people have died from exhaustion, starvation, in the midst of plenty.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. L. LAYARD, *Administrator*

His Excellency Sir Hercules G. R. Robinson, K.C.M.G.,
Governor of New South Wales and Fiji.

Inclosure 7 in No. 16.

Spread of Measles—Deaths among the Constabulary.

For his Honour.

SO far as the Constabulary are concerned, the spread of this epidemic has yielded to unremitting care and medical treatment. Before and from the moment when it seemed to fly among the villages of Draiba and reach the police barracks at Nasova, every possible assistance has been given to the sufferers.

For some weeks after the landing of Thakobau, no sign of it appeared beyond his immediate followers from Sydney, who were supposed to be convalescent, and every effort was made, though fruitlessly, to isolate them.

Many of the patients have confessed to having, under cover of night, stolen past the guards, to having entered other houses, and to having laid down in a cold running stream prior to their return. All of these have suffered from dysentry or congestion of the lungs, and many of them have died. Nearly every person who has submitted to medical treatment has recovered.

When first attacked, the total strength of the native constabulary in barracks was 143, of all ranks.

Of this number, nine only have died. One hundred and seventeen have been discharged from hospital, and allowed one month's furlough to recruit their strength; and twenty-six are still in ward, and, but with two exceptions, are nearly well. During the time that Nasora has been converted into an hospital, any and every native who desired has been allowed to enter the building and receive medical attendance and careful nursing.

As the native population has conceived an idea that the sickness was introduced for the special purpose of carrying them off, very few have availed of the offer. Many of the sick appear to consider that their only chance of recovery depends upon their not being forced to take European medicines.

They take native medicines and crude and ill-cooked food, become weak and

offensive to their stronger friends, who almost leave them to die of starvation. The impression that sickness has been introduced by the whites with a most sinister object does not obtain among the higher and intelligent Chiefs, and most likely will leave the lower orders with the disappearance of the disease.

Medicine and food have been sent to all the people who would accept it, and Dr. Harwood has been engaged to assist the Chief Medical Officer in the native towns of Levuka. Full supplies have also been sent to Bau, which is, as usual, rather crowded. The French Missionaries have been attending their proselytes at Draiba and elsewhere, and Government aid in the shape of food and medicine has been offered to them. Thus everything has been done in this island, in accordance with your Honour's directions, that could be done for people so peculiarly constituted and situated as the Fijians. But it is not to be denied that the great majority of the native population is practically beyond our help.

The disease is already reported in our furthest limits east and west, and the mountaineers of central Viti Levu have also got it among them. People talk of "isolation." They might as well talk of setting a barricade against the east wind.

The natives of Fiji have never known an epidemic before; they laughed at medical counsels and ridiculed the idea of unknown dangers.

They are men and women in stature, but children in mind.

The best advice may be given to them, but they will try to allay fever by lying in a mountain stream, or by reclining in the full draught of an open doorway.

To prevent things of this sort it would be necessary to appoint a nurse to every patient.

The slight mortality at Nasova, and the medical necessaries and comforts dispensed by Government to those who can be reached and who can make use of them, sufficiently controverts the assertion current among a certain class here that the natives have been unattended to. Of the nine who died at Nasova, five at least died by their wilful evasion of orders.

The Colonial Secretary, in view of public opinion as expressed in the local press, thinks it worthy of note that during frequent daily visits along the coast, and occasionally at night, he never, with the exception of the Catholic Priest, met a single European among the sick, nor heard on inquiry that one had been among them.

(Signed) JOHN B. THURSTON,
Colonial Secretary.

March 1, 1875.

No. 17.

Sir Hercules Robinson, G.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received May 10.)

My Lord, *Government House, Sydney, March* 18, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Layard respecting the number of time-expired Polynesian labourers who will have to be returned to their homes before the close of the present year.

2. I also inclose a copy of my reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERCULES ROBINSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 17.

Sir, *Government House, Fiji, February* 12, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, in accordance with the instructions issued by the Commodore commanding on the station, notified to me by Captain Chapman of Her Majesty's ship "Dido," that vessel conveyed away from here on the 7th instant 101 Polynesian labourers to be returned to their homes in the New Hebrides.

2. Full details will be furnished to your Excellency in a future despatch of the places to which they went, the names of their employers, whether any sums were paid on their account, &c. At present I have simply to request that you will be kind enough to convey our best thanks to Commodore Goodenough for his timely assistance.

3. I now beg to inclose, for your Excellency's information, a letter I have just received from the Immigration Agent respecting the men still left on our hands whose

time is expired, amounting to about 1,000, and whom we are under a certain promise to return to their homes in April and May.

4. Besides these, there are the men whose time will expire this year, amounting to about 1,227.*

5. The Immigration Agent furnishes a list of the vessels in the labour trade during the past year, which, with the exception of two, will not run again. I see no other cause, therefore, but to request your Excellency to endeavour, by advertisement or otherwise in Sydney, to induce vessels to come for the express purpose of returning the men. If this cannot be done, a vessel must be specially chartered, and the expense will be very heavy.

6. In consequence of the loose manner in which Mr. March drew up the labour Agreements I fear it will be impossible to make the employers pay this except under the Proclamation just issued by your Excellency, but doubts are expressed here whether that can have a retrospective effect and touch the very cases that are the most pressing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. L. LAYARD, *Administrator.*

His Excellency Sir Hercules Robinson, K.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

Inclosure 2 in No. 17.

Sir, *Government House, Sydney, March* 16, 1875.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 12th, which I have communicated to Commodore Goodenough for his information.

2. As your later despatches have informed me of the severe attack of measles which is prevalent in Fiji in an epidemic form, and as you allude also to the desirability of taking all possible precautions for preventing the extension of the disease to the labour islands, I shall delay advertising here for vessels to carry return labourers to their homes until I hear further from you on the subject.

3. I am unable to appreciate the difficulty to which you advert in the concluding sentence of your despatch. The settlement of claims to land is in the hands of Her Majesty's Government, and it is competent for that authority in any equitable adjustment of such matters to direct that advances for labour and back passages shall in all cases be a first charge upon the land.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERCULES ROBINSON.

The Honourable E. L. Layard,
&c. &c. &c.

Inclosure 3 in No. 17.

Sir, *Immigration Office, Tologa, February* 11, 1875.

I BEG to call your attention to the prospective difficulty which will ensue from the small quantity of shipping on which we can rely to be at our disposal in April next for the purpose of returning to their homes those Polynesians now in the group whose term of service has expired.

You are aware that while filling the position of Her Britannic Majesty's Consul previous to annexation, a large number of time-expired Polynesians, who were becoming discontented at their protracted detention in Fiji, were induced to remain quiet, or accept short engagements, on the distinct understanding and promise that they should be sent home after the "hurricane months," in which difficulty I had the honour of co-operating with you in my position as Comptroller-General of labour under the then existing Government.

These men, trusting in our promise, have hitherto remained quiet and orderly, but as April is now approaching, they will look for that promise being fulfilled, and it will be both difficult and dangerous to detain these Polynesians much longer.

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* N. Hebrides	783
Solomon Isles..	48
Line	396
Total	1,227

In some few cases the labourers are in a state of open mutiny, refusing to work any more, and are utterly beyond the control of their employers, and, although no act of outrage, beyond thieving on the plantations on which they have been employed, and those in their immediate neighbourhood, have as yet occurred, their well-known disregard of human life may at any moment lead to a more serious result.

I herewith subjoin a list of the vessels employed in returning labour in 1874, with the names of those vessels withdrawn from the trade from the causes assigned, which will illustrate at once our utter inability to return these islanders to their homes, if relying solely on our own resources.

As I mentioned in a former communication which I had the honour to address to you on this subject, the number of Polynesians now in the group whose return is due, is about 1,000, but if outside means could be provided to convey, say 600, during the months of April and May next, the remaining portion might be disposed of by our own local vessels.

I trust that you will give this matter the attention it deserves, as while it is very far from my desire to create unnecessary alarm, yet I do think that outrage, and, perhaps, loss of life, may ensue, unless energetic action is taken to redeem the promise made to these men by sending them home.

I will not further trespass on your time by offering any suggestions as to the mode by which this much desired object can be accomplished, but confidently leave the matter in your hands for such action as you may deem advisable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY BENTLEY.
Immigration Agent.

List of Vessels which were employed returning Polynesians in 1874:—

"Planet." Wrecked.	"Loelia." Sold and withdrawn.
"Emma." Will only return owner's labour.	"Ringdove." Sold.
"Bruce." Withdrawn and sold.	"Marion Rennie."
"Hallie Jackson." Wrecked.	"Daphne."
"Mary Eliza." Withdrawn.	"Tui Tavuki." Uncertain.

His Honour the Administrator of the Government
of the Colony of Fiji.

No. 18.

Colonial Office to Admiralty.

Sir, *Downing Street, May* 20, 1875.

I AM directed by the Earl of Carnarvon to transmit to you, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, copies of three despatches* received through the Governor of New South Wales from the officer administering the Government of Fiji, reporting the outbreak of measles in an epidemic form in those islands.

Lord Carnarvon desires me to state that he regards it as most unfortunate that Dr. Goodman, of Her Majesty's ship "Dido," should not have warned the local authorities that there was danger of this disease spreading, nor can his Lordship withhold the expression of his opinion that, assuming, as he has no doubt is the case, that the statement of the facts received is correct, the conduct of Dr. Goodman in this respect was careless and reprehensible.

It is for the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to decide in what manner notice should be taken of it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. R. MALCOLM.

No. 19.

The Polynesia Company to the Earl of Carnarvon—(*Received May* 25.)

May it please your Lordship, 58, *Temple Court, Melbourne, January* 28, 1875.

BY order of the Board of Directors of "The Polynesia Company, Limited," we the Undersigned, have the honour to address your Lordship on behalf of the Company.

* See No. 15.

On the 3rd of December last, a Memorial was transmitted to your Lordship setting forth the claims of the Company, and praying that your Lordship would be pleased to order the delivery to the Company of the 110,000 acres of land still due, and the payment by the new Colony of Fiji of at least 25,000*l.* for the banking and other privileges, together with exemption for ever from taxation contained in the Charter from the King and Chiefs to the Company.

The unceasing importunities of the holders of land warrants, embolden the Directors again to make an appeal to your Lordship, and to express the hope your Lordship will be pleased to take the just claims of the Company into your favourable consideration, and to order that the land be handed over by the proper authorities in the new Colony without delay, to enable the Directors to meet the pressing demands of the land-warrant holders, numbers of whom are desirous of settling in Fiji.

When the timely service rendered by the Company and the obligations of the Charter are considered, the Directors venture to hope your Lordship will be pleased to view the sum named to be taken in lieu of the "privileges" as very reasonable, and one that ought, under the circumstances, to be honourably met by the new Colony.

Trusting your Lordship will be pleased to take the just claims of the Company into your favourable consideration, and order that they be dealt with at the earliest possible date, We have, &c.

(Signed) ALEX. KENNEDY SMITH, *Chairman*,
GEO. T. WYLEIGH, *Manager*.

No. 20.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, May* 28, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Sir H. Robinson's despatch of the 18th of March last,* inclosing a copy of a correspondence between Mr. Layard and himself on the subject of the return of time-expired Polynesian labourers.

I approve of Sir H. Robinson's decision to delay taking the proposed steps for obtaining vessels to return labourers to their native islands during the prevalence of the measles in Fiji.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 21.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, May* 28, 1875.

I HAVE perused with much interest Sir Hercules Robinson's despatch of the 17th of March,† with its inclosures, containing a detailed account of the interview between Mr. Layard and the Chiefs of the Kai Colos of Viti Levu.

I notice with satisfaction the good services rendered by Mr. Thurston on this and several recent occasions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 22.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, May* 28, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that Her Majesty has been pleased, on my recommendation, to give directions for the appointment of Captain James Graham Goodenough, R.N., Commodore commanding Her Majesty's naval forces on the Australian station, and Edgar Leopold Layard, Esq. (the British Consul at Fiji), to be Companions of the Order of St. Michael and St. George for their services in connection with the annexation of the Fiji Islands to the British dominions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

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* No. 17.

† No. 15.

No. 23.

Admiralty to Colonial Office.

Sir, *Admiralty, June* 5, 1875.

I HAVE received and laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your letters of the 20th* and the 31st ultimo,† respecting the outbreak of measles in the Fiji Islands and Norfolk Island, consequent upon the visit of Her Majesty's ship "Dido," and the alleged conduct of Staff-Surgeon Goodman in not recommending proper precautions to be taken to prevent the spread of the disease.

In reply, I am to request that you will inform the Earl of Carnarvon that copies of these letters and their inclosures have been sent to Commodore Goodenough with directions for him to cause a full inquiry to be made.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 24.

Colonial Office to Treasury.

Sir, *Downing Street, June* 9, 1875.

WITH reference to the letters from this Department on the subject of the grant of Imperial assistance in aid of the revenues of Fiji,‡ I am directed by the Earl of Carnarvon to request that you will lay before the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury the accompanying copies of telegrams from Sir A. Gordon and Sir H. Robinson,† and to state that he will be glad to receive, as early as possible, an intimation of what it is proposed to do, as regards financial assistance in aid of Fiji, as it will be necessary to communicate immediately by telegraph with the Government of the Colony.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT G. W. HERBERT.

No. 25.

Governor Sir H. Robinson, G.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received June 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Sydney, June* 9, 1875.

TILL a few days ago, had no news whatever from Fiji, for nearly three months. Still without official details of effect of measles, but from private information just received, estimate loss at from one-fifth to one-fourth of population; say 25,000 persons. Officials seem to have done all in their power, but mortality increased by inattention to European medical injunctions and weather, which was unusually unfavourable. From last account disease almost died out. Gordon goes on in few days, only waiting answer to telegram of yesterday.

No. 26.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, June* 11, 1875.

WITH reference to a letter from this Department of the 26th January,§ I have the honour to transmit to you, for your consideration, a copy of a further letter which has been addressed to me on behalf of a Company styled the "Polynesia Company, Limited."‖

Although I desire that every claim that is founded on reason and justice should be favourably considered, I am no less anxious that every application which is put forward should be subjected to the most searching inquiry, and that where, as in the present case, large tracts of land and extensive privileges are claimed by virtue of grants purporting to have been made by native chiefs, it must be clearly shown that the chiefs had full power to dispose of the land and grant the privileges claimed, and that the consideration given was such as, having regard to the present political and commercial

* No. 18. † Not printed. ‡ Nos. 5 and 14. § No. 4. ‖ No. 19.

prospects of Fiji, would not make the grant of the lands and privileges in return for it an extravagant and improvident bargain in the interests of the Colony.

You will, of course, in dealing with this matter, pay special attention to the opinion expressed by Sir H. Robinson as to the manner in which the claims of this Company should be dealt with.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 27.

Colonial Office to Messrs. Smith and Wyleigh.

Gentlemen, *Downing Street, June* 11, 1875.

I AM directed by the Earl of Carnarvon to state that he has received, through the Agent-General for Victoria, the letter which you addressed to his Lordship on the 28th of January* on behalf of a Company styled "The Polynesia Company, Limited," and that he has referred this as well as the previous memorial on the subject for the consideration of Sir Arthur Gordon.

I am desired to take this opportunity of stating that all claims such as this must be preferred in Fiji, and that Lord Carnarvon cannot entertain any applications made to him direct by persons alleging that they have any right or title to land in the Colony, or to other privileges purporting to have been acquired before the cession of Fiji to the Crown.

I am further to request that it may be distinctly understood that, in making this reply to your letter, Lord Carnarvon does not admit, on the part either of Her Majesty's Government or of the Government of Fiji, the validity of any claim made or to be made by the Polynesia Company.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT G. W. HERBERT.

No. 28.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received June 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Sydney, June* 12, 1875, 4·40 P.M.

HAVE to-day seen yesterday's telegram and Robinson's reply. I think his opinion as to dying out of disease too sanguine. On arrival here, resolved to send on medical officers at once to Fiji; also purchased stock of medicines. They have gone in "Barracouta."

No. 29.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, June* 12, 1875.

I LOST no time in communicating to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the distressing intelligence contained in Sir H. Robinson's despatch of the 17th of March,† respecting the outbreak of measles in Fiji, and the apparent neglect of Dr. Goodman, of Her Majesty's ship "Dido," in not warning the local authorities of the danger of the disease spreading; and I have been informed by their Lordships that they have instructed Commodore Goodenough to cause a full inquiry to be made as to the origin of this calamity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 30.

Treasury to Colonial Office.

Sir, *Treasury Chambers, June* 12, 1875.

WITH reference to Mr. Herbert's letter of the 9th instant,‡ and previous letters, on the subject of the assistance to be granted from Imperial revenues to the Colonial

* No. 19. † No. 16. ‡ No. 24.

Government of the Fiji Islands, in aid of the expenditure in that Colony, I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State, that my Lords will be prepared to submit a grant of 40,000*l.* in the present Session of Parliament; and a further grant, not exceeding 60,000*l.*, in the Session of 1876-77, in lieu of the loan which the Secretary of State proposes.

I am to state that my Lords will be glad to learn if this arrangement will meet the views of the Secretary of State.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. H. SMITH.

No. 31.

Colonial Office to Treasury.

Sir, *Downing Street, June* 18, 1875.

I AM directed by the Earl of Carnarvon to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant,* stating that the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury will be prepared to submit to Parliament a vote of 40,000*l.*, and in the next Session a further vote of 60,000*l.*, in aid of the local revenue of Fiji.

2. This arrangement is perfectly satisfactory to Lord Carnarvon, and he will cause an estimate to be prepared and furnished to the Treasury.

3. In the letter from this Department of the 25th February,† the sum of 150,000*l.* was mentioned as the amount which, with the information then before him, his Lordship anticipated would have to be provided, and, owing to the late disastrous outbreak of measles in the Colony, it is possible that still further financial assistance may become necessary. Lord Carnarvon, however, proposes to instruct the Governor to practise the strictest economy, and he trusts that the sums now promised by their Lordships will be found sufficient, with the aid of an issue of unguaranteed debentures, which his Lordship would not propose to offer to the public, but to hand to persons establishing valid claims against the former Government of Fiji.

4. Lord Carnarvon fully understands that repayment of these sums will be expected from the Colony in the event of the local finances admitting hereafter of such a course, but, with the very limited knowledge which as yet he possesses of the resources and requirements of the new Colony, he is, of course, unable to express any confident opinion on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT G. W. HERBERT.

No. 32.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, June* 29, 1875.

WITH reference to the telegrams which have passed between yourself and this Department, respecting the financial assistance to be given from Imperial funds in aid of the revenues of Fiji, I have the honour to transmit to you, for your information, the accompanying copies of a correspondence between this Office and the Treasury, which will place you in possession of the intentions of Her Majesty's Government as regards the manner in which it is proposed that the assistance should be granted.‡

2. From this correspondence you will perceive that in my original communication I left it for the decision of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury what form the financial aid to be given should take, intimating, however, that in my opinion the guarantee of a loan would be less objectionable than in an ordinary case.

3. After much consideration, however, of the whole question, Her Majesty's Government came to the conclusion that it would be preferable to make a grant of money, to be spread over two years, and to be repayable whenever the condition of the Colonial revenues may render repayment practicable. You will, accordingly, have at your command during the present year the sum of 40,000*l.*, and of this sum I trust that but a small proportion will be required for the current disbursements of the Government after the loan raised by you in Sydney has been repaid. I am, of course,

* No. 30. † No. 5. ‡ Nos. 5, 30, and 31.

very desirous that the grant or advance to be received from the Imperial Government shall be kept within the narrowest possible bounds.

4. After further consideration, therefore, of the financial condition of the Colony, I am disposed to think that the claims of the holders of debentures, in so far as they may be satisfactorily established, should be met by the issue of debentures bearing the guarantee of the Colonial Government only, and at a low rate of interest, say 4 or possibly 4½ per cent. As the prospect of receiving either principal or interest, in the event of Her Majesty's Government not concerning itself with the affairs of the Islands, would have been very remote, if not hopeless, and the acknowledgment of these obligations is purely an act of grace on the part of Her Majesty's Government, I think such an arrangement as this will be reasonable. But I request you not only to make no payments, without my previous sanction, on account of any claims against former Governments of Fiji, but to refrain from giving any pledges as to the course that may be adopted with regard to such claims.

5. You will, no doubt, cause the necessary inquiries into the liabilities of former Governments to be commenced as soon as possible, and all claims closely scrutinized.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 33.

Governor Sir H. Robinson, G.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(*Received August* 3.)

My Lord, *Government House, Sydney, June* 3, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to report that Sir Arthur Gordon arrived here on the 25th ultimo, and that I at once transferred to him the Administration of the Government of Fiji.

2. I have handed over to him all the records and other official papers connected with that Colony which were in my possession, including the manuscript Minutes of the Chiefs offering to cede Fiji, and the original manuscript Instrument of Cession, which last I had been directed by your telegram of 12th November, 1874, to retain for the present.

3. Since Sir Arthur Gordon's arrival I have received from Mr. Layard a number of despatches connected with the transaction of the ordinary official business of Fiji extending over a period from the commencement of March to the middle of May. I have, at Sir Arthur Gordon's desire, handed over all these papers to him to be dealt with, and he will no doubt communicate to your Lordship copies of such of them as he may think requisite.

4. Mr. Layard's official despatches do not contain information as to the probable extent of the mortality amongst the natives from the measles, but in a private letter to me, dated 7th May, he observes: "The losses by the measles will, I estimate, come near 10,000 souls. Some say one-third of the population, but I do not think so. In some places it has died out, in others it is just beginning. It stops everything. Of course I dare not send away any Polynesians, so the poor fellows are again detained! I fear the 'Dido' took it to Mallicolo Island, where she landed forty men. The 'Daphne' brings word that, in calling there she heard a 'big steam-ship with three masts had landed plenty men; these men get plenty sick; now plenty men die.' They saw none but a few women about, and could hardly get any yams, which they wanted. I fear this looks like the introduction of the disease."

5. Dr. Cruickshank, the medical officer of the Provisional Government, in writing to a friend here under date 6th May, observes: "The disease has passed through this island and the greater number of the others, but on some plantations where they have been trying to isolate their labour it is only getting amongst them. It has been very fatal amongst the Fijians, and I don't think less than one-fifth of the population will die, chiefly owing to the terribly bad weather we had in the group when the disease was at its height. I had between 140 and 150 cases at Nasora, and lost 9, but then we had them well under control."

6. Mr. Thurston, in writing unofficially to my private secretary, under date 12th May, remarks: "The measles are dying out, thank heaven. I do not think the sickness will give rise to any interruption of the late good will between Government and natives. I wish I could go up to the interior and see the people, but with Mr. Horton constantly laid up with chronic dysentery I cannot stir. Some people here conjure up apprehensions, but there are no grounds to apprehend anything unpleasant.

* * * * * *

The Revenue was very low last quarter, but is looking up a little now; in fact, the last three months were the most miserable I ever passed in the country."

7. I observe from Mr. Layard's despatches that the Revenue for the quarter ended 31st March last amounted to 3,031*l.*, and the expenditure to 4,408*l.*, being an excess of expenditure over Revenue for the quarter of 1,377*l.* The total Revenue from 10th October, 1874 (the date of Cession), to 31st March, 1875, amounted to 7,293*l.*, and the expenditure to 8,126*l.*, leaving a deficiency on the first half-year of only 833*l.* If it had not been for the interruption to trade and business of all kinds caused by the measles, the Revenue would, I think, have come up to my estimate, or would at all events have been considerably in excess of the provisional expenditure.

8. Sir Arthur Gordon has found himself in want of funds to make advances while here to the staff by whom he is accompanied, and at my request the Government of this Colony at once obligingly placed at his disposal the sum of 800*l.*, which he required for the purpose specified, the amount to be repaid at the convenience of the new Colony.

9. Sir Arthur Gordon is despatching his staff to Fiji in the "Barracouta" on the 8th instant, and proposes to start himself a few days later with Commodore Goodenough in Her Majesty's ship "Pearl."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERCULES ROBINSON.

Inclosure in No. 33.

Schedule of Papers handed to his Excellency the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., by his Excellency Sir H. Robinson, G.C.M.G.

1. RESOLUTION of Thakombau and Chiefs at Levuka to cede Fiji (in original).
2. Instrument of Cession, with translation (original manuscript).
3. Book of despatches from Sir Hercules Robinson to Secretary of State, containing 84 despatches, as follows:—

Sixty-six numbered despatches, viz., from 1 to 36, in 1874, and from 1 to 30 in 1875.

Thirteen confidential despatches, viz., 1 dated October 31, 1 dated November 1, 3 dated November 4, 1 dated November 7, 1 dated November 8, 1 dated November 12, and 1 dated November 20, 1874; 1 dated January 1, 1 dated March 22, and 1 dated March 25, 1875.

Five acknowledgments, viz., 1 dated February 10, 1 dated March 11, 1 dated March 16, 1 dated April 6, 1 dated May 3, 1875; 84 despatches in all.

4. Despatches (original) from Secretary of State to Sir Hercules Robinson, viz.:—

Twenty-six numbered despatches, as follows, from No. 1, of December 10, 1874, to No. 26, of March 25, 1875.

Three confidential despatches—1 dated December 26, 1874; 1 dated January 2, and 1 dated January 15, 1875.

Two acknowledgments, viz., 1 dated February 24, and 1 dated March 11, 1875; 31 despatches in all.

5. Despatches (original) from Mr. Layard to Sir Hercules Robinson, viz.:—

1 to 23 in 1874, and 1 to 47 in 1875.

Eleven acknowledgments—2 dated January 21, 1 dated January 27, 2 dated February 17, 1 dated March 2, 2 dated March 30, 1 dated May 6, and 2 dated May 12, 1875; 81 despatches in all.

6. Miscellaneous correspondence.
7. Cheque Book, Pass Book. Oriental Bank Corporation. Fiji Government Account.

(Signed) WALTER HELY HUTCHINSON,
Private Secretary.

No. 34.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received August 3.)

My Lord, *Sydney, June 4, 1875.*

YOUR Lordship will have learnt with regret from Sir H. Robinson's despatch of the 17th March* how serious have been the consequences of the introduction of measles into the Island of Ovalau, from which it has spread to the other islands of the Fiji group.

2. Mr. Layard's report forwarded in the despatch above referred to was received here on the 16th of March. No further letters were received from Fiji for a period of nearly two months; and on my arrival here, on the 24th May, I found great uncertainty and apprehension prevailing on this subject.

3. Although the despatches received from Mr. Layard on the† refer incidentally to the disease, there is, strange to say, no report on its progress, or on the mortality with which it has been attended. The accounts given in private letters naturally vary according to the locality from which they are written.

4. Roughly speaking, the mortality seems to be estimated at from a fifth to a third of the entire native population.

5. The head of the police, Mr. Olive, has been doing, according to all accounts, excellent service.

6. I have ordered the purchase here of a small stock of medicines, which will be conveyed to Fiji in Her Majesty's ship "Barracouta," with Doctors Macgregor and Mayo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. GORDON.

No. 35.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received August 4.)

My Lord, *Government House, Sydney, June 10, 1875.*

IN my despatch of the 4th instant‡ I mentioned that no official report of the measles in Fiji had been received from Mr. Layard by the last mail from Levuka.

In the absence of such report, the inclosed extracts from private letters, written by missionaries, planters, and others in Fiji, may possibly be of interest to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. GORDON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 35.

The Rev. J. Waterhouse to the Rev. B. Chapman (Secretary to the Wesleyan Missionary Society.)

(Extract.) *Navuloa, March 8, 1875.*

I AM sorry to have to inform you that, since I wrote to you respecting the measles, the disorder has become virulent, and has carried off a great number of natives, principally adults. The visitation has been more like that of cholera, or plague, than that of measles, as you understand that complaint.

So soon as the first case made its appearance at the Institution, I gave a lecture on the disease and its treatment, and then we set to work to prepare for our dreaded visitor. Between twenty and thirty of the boys were sent home to Bau, to make more houseroom for the students proper. Then we prepared a quantity of tapioca for all hands, erected necessary outhouses in connection with every dwelling, sent in all directions to purchase medicine, medical comforts, and food. Nor had we been too prompt, for soon we had very dangerous cases, which, but for the preparations, would, I fear, have ended fatally. I visited every case once or twice a-day, and, by God's blessing, have only lost one patient. . . . .

* No. 16. † *Sic in orig.* ‡ No. 34.

So soon as I could leave home, I went to Bau to see the sick folks there; and was grieved to find that the natives were pursuing a wrong treatment. The native ministers Joel Bulu and Stephen Naicola were dangerously ill. The latter was in a very small, close room, without window, and only a very small door, which was kept sacredly closed. . . . .

In many of the towns I have been reminded of the plague in London. The people people have been seized with fear, and have abandoned their sick. Whole families have been taken ill, and have been left without help. Yesterday was a very wet day, but, as Wesley was supposed to be dying, I paid him a visit. We were two hours in the boat before we arrived at his house. Entering, I found him apparently dead; his wife and four or five children all ill, lying down to die or recover, and the family completely deserted. I found him able to whisper, "The land is panic stricken. Wife forsakes the afflicted husband. The healthy congregate together; the sick are left to themselves. A woman living with us died yesterday, and her body is buried, but we are forsaken." After giving him medicine, I set to work to make some soup, and then we had a short service.

After I had attended to them all, I went to another town, but found it quite empty. All had fled, except one couple, who kindly asked me in. . . . I went back through torrents of rain to Wesley; he was worse. I gave him some soup, and tried to borrow some brandy to give with it, but could not. . . . . Leaving two of our recovered men to nurse the sick, according to directions, I returned home quite knocked up with the bad air I had been breathing, hoping, but wondering whether Wesley will recover.

On arrival at home, I found a message from another native minister, Aquila, who is very ill, and would like to come here to die.

You should know that communication with other places is almost at an end. People are either ill or expecting to be ill, and so we cannot get messengers. At Bau there have been deaths almost every day. One day last week six who had died at Bau were buried.

Now we are short of food; and, unless we can buy soon, I fear that we shall have to break up the establishment when the sickness is at an end.

The ex-King has lost by this affliction a son and a daughter (the latter leaving five children), a brother, and his faithful Tongan Peter, besides many personal friends. He and his wife are getting better.

Inclosure 2 in No. 35.

The Rev. A. J. Webb to the Rev. B. Chapman.

(Extract.) *Bau, April* 1, 1875.

A CALAMITY of the most serious kind has swept down upon this beautiful group of islands, and its ravages will have to be computed not by hundreds, but by thousands. We are having the same disease down here that has been prevalent in the Colonies; but the mortality is heightened by the habits, the ignorance, and the lack of aid which is ever to be found in a large native population.

By most remarkable fatuity persons sick of measles were allowed to descend from the "Dido" and land the dire disease upon the shore of their country, and remarkably free intercourse took place between the King's family and their compatriots from different parts of Fiji. Ere long the people lay down in masses, and a most extraordinary scene was presented of whole towns with the houses closed, the lanes and squares silent as death, and the inhabitants all down. Old men and infants, young men, and mothers of families, one heap of illness. On Bau it seemed as though the curse that alighted on Sennacheribs's army was repeated, and there was a weird quiet about the place that struck very peculiarly upon one's feelings. Daily the canoes were to be seen carrying the dead to their breezy resting places on the opposite shore, and day and night was the death drum beating, and the wails of the mourners rose on the air. Strong winds and heavy rains added to the horrors of the situation; and the Bauans almost starved for food, the people being unable to get to the mainland where their gardens were. All our servants were laid up, and we had to nurse them for weeks with food and medicine. My wife was weak, and nursing and other work fell on me, there not being another soul to do it. Hard worked in the day, and broken rest at night, I passed through some weeks the like of which I hope never to see again. In our own land there is always a large proportion of healthy persons who act as a relief

to the many stricken by prevailing disease; but here you have a whole country down, men, women, and children all round you dying every day. Your best friends among the people dying, and those you have taken the greatest pains with. Two, both fine young preachers, have died on my own premises; and so fetid did they make the houses they died in that I have had to destroy the walls to let the trade-wind purify the air. . . . Two of our children have had the measles, and are not quite recovered yet. Reports still come in from different parts of Fiji; and at Rewa the workings of the disease and its accompaniments are simply horrible. It is to be feared that the frightfully impure state of some of the villages may engender typhus fever, and that would sweep off numbers that measles and dysentery have spared. The imported labour are dying on the plantations, the occupations of the planters are seriously interfered with by disease, and, in fact, Fiji has received a most serious wound through the introduction of this disease, and a partial paralysis must occur in all commercial operations and in inter-island navigation.

Inclosure 3 in No. 35.

The Rev. A. J. Webb to the Rev. B. Chapman.

(Extract.) *Bau, April* 9, 1875.

SINCE my last letter to you I have seized the first opportunity which presented itself and visited Rewa. The place looked awful as we reached it, so death-like was the stillness and so few living beings were to be seen. Through slush and long wet grass we made our way to some of the houses and visited our afflicted friends; at last, wet through, cold, and sickened, we retired to the native Minister's house, and passed an ever-to-be-remembered night with the mosquitoes, which are the "habitués" of the place.

Erone, the native Minister there, had been very ill, with all his family, and everybody else being ill too, he was left without help, when the Lord put into the heart of a white woman to give them the kindest attention in their trying circumstances.

Next morning I made some more visits; there has been a great mortality here, and some sad cases have occurred. What annoyed me exceedingly was that numbers of teachers have fled from the towns and villages they were in charge of, and run like sheep into other places, where the measles overtook them nevertheless.

Roko Tui Dakrati, the Chief of Rewa, told me that both the teachers in the town he is staying at, Nambua, had deserted them and gone.

Inclosure 4 in No. 35.

Mr. A. Barrack to Mr. J. Campbell.

(Extract.) *Savu Savu Bay, April* 20, 1875.

THE pearl shell trade has stopped again since the measles came in the district.

With respect to the above, I am sorry to say that the country is in a deplorable state; I hardly know how to describe it to you. The greatest trouble is to get the dead buried.

The whites have done all they can in their several neighbourhoods, and, in most cases, get them over the measles; but a malignant type of dysentery follows, and they get unmanageable in most cases, and the result is death.

They likewise seem quite indifferent about one another; and unless some white person is near, neglect the sick, and sit and look at them dying for want of a drink or a bit of food. It is a sad tale, and I don't know who is responsible.

The whites, too, have had their trouble with sickness, and many have been carried off. We have to be very thankful, for, although Mrs. Barrack has been daily amongst the sick, none of our family have been ill as yet. Neither has any of our Tanna men; but we can hardly expect to escape altogether.

Whatever medicines we have had, privately or in the store, Mrs. Barrack has used freely; she made up over 500 dysentery pills in one week. I was quite certain that, in a terrible calamity like this, you would approve of giving what we had to save life.

I am quite certain we will lose 25 per cent. of the population; some people go far enough to say, if this goes on much longer, it will be even 50 per cent. When will the country recover from this?

Inclosure 5 in No. 35.

The Rev. J. Rooney to the Rev. B. Chapman.

(Extract.) *Loma Loma, May* 3, 1875.

YOU have doubtless heard ere this of the introduction of measles into Fiji, and the ravages they are committing. About 300 have already died on this island; 75 in the village of Loma Loma alone. We have lost several teachers, and a great number of local preachers and class leaders. Joel Keteca, the native minister, died at Kabora, after a fortnight's illness.

Our native helpers, together with the students in the Circuit Institution, were all down at the same time,—so I had my hands full. Two students died; the others are getting round slowly. I have dispensed at least 6*l.* worth of medicine during the last few weeks; but the worst I think is now over.

Inclosure 6 in No. 35.

Père Breheret, Prefet Apostolique, Fiji, to the Rev. C. M. Joly, S.M.

LA rougeole apportée de Sydney par Thakombau va nous enlever au moins 20,000 âmes, avec autant de corps, 700 environ à Ovalau parmi les naturels.

Le frère Edouard vient mourir de la rougeole.

Inclosure 7 in No. 35.

Extracts from the "Fiji Times."

April 21, 1875.

WE learn from Moala that the natives are suffering in an equal proportion to those elsewhere, and, as far as can be ascertained, about eighty have succumbed to the epidemic. In the small town of Katira twenty-six were conveyed to the cemetery in less than forty-eight hours after they were attacked by the plague. At Totoya and Matuka the sickness has scarcely had time to develop itself, and, as fine weather has set in throughout the group, we hope many districts may yet be spared from the severity of the scourge.

* * * * * * * *

A gentleman recently from Koro informs us that from 400 to 500 natives have died upon that island; this seems very large, but away from medical aid or European restraint, what can be expected but that great mortality must occur?

May 1, 1875.

Although we are happy to state that the measles have now almost, if not entirely, died out on the Island of Ovalau, we are constantly in receipt of news of its terrible ravages in the surrounding islands; and while it is difficult to arrive at an estimate of the number of deaths, we cannot believe that it will be found to be less than one-third of our entire population when the angel of death has ceased to hover o'er us. As may be easily imagined, many of the details of the progress of the disease in the native towns are very sickening; in many cases the pest-stricken natives, being entirely neglected by their relations and friends, either through inability to assist, in consequence of whole families being stricken at the same time, or through fear of catching the dysentery, which in nine cases out of ten sets in after the measles have left the patient. We have heard of many cases of measles having been followed by dysentery, and after the patient has recovered, and rejoicing thereat, he cannot resist the temptation to have a bathe or otherwise expose himself, when a relapse sets in, which is almost always rapid and fatal. And strange to say, although fully warned of

what will follow, the natives will persist in thus making away with themselves, for we can call it nothing else. Out of a population of 300 at Na Korovou, at the south end of Taviuni, 75 have died up to the date our informant left; and on the east side of Viti Levu, commencing at Namalata, to the small island of Qama, a distance of some twenty miles along the coast, 180 have succumbed.

No. 36.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(*Received August* 4.)

My Lord, *Government House, Sydney, June* 10, 1875.

I WAS in hopes that I might possibly, before the closing of the mail to-day, receive a reply to my telegram of the 8th instant. I have, therefore, deferred, till the last possible moment, before writing to inform your Lordship of the provisional arrangements which I have made, with a view to meeting immediate financial difficulties. I must now necessarily be brief.

2. The prevailing epidemic has very greatly reduced the revenue receipts in Fiji, and on my arrival there, I anticipate that I shall at once be called upon to make disbursements (salaries, payment of passages of public officers from Sydney to Fiji, return passages of labourers, &c., &c.) exceeding by about 3,000*l.* the amount which I shall find in the Treasury available to meet such demands.

3. I have therefore obtained from the Bank of New South Wales a loan of 5,000*l.*, which I shall take to Fiji with me, and have arranged with this bank, which is one of first-class character and standing, to honour drafts drawn upon it to the extent of another 5,000*l.*, should the necessity for such drafts arise.

4. The interest charged by the bank on these loans is 6 per cent. on the amounts actually drawn, but I can only obtain the money at this rate on the understanding that an Imperial loan will be ultimately made to the new Colony. I cannot officially state that this will be the case, but I have given the strongest assurances of my belief to that effect. Failing such Imperial loan, no bank would make their advances at a lower rate than 10 per cent., the common rate at which they are now lending money on ordinary security.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. GORDON.

CORRESPONDENCE respecting the Colony of Fiji.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty. August 6, 1875.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

COLONY OF FIJI.

(In continuation of C. 1337 of 1875.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
February 1876.

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Further Correspondence respecting the Colony of Fiji.

No. 1.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, August* 11, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 10th of June,* and to convey to you my approval of the provisional arrangements which you had found it necessary to make with the Bank of New South Wales, with the view of meeting the financial difficulties of the new Colony.

My telegram of the 13th of June,† which arrived at Sydney shortly after your departure, will have announced to you the Treasury vote in aid of the revenues of Fiji, and you will subsequently have received the correspondence on the subject which accompanied my despatch of the 29th of the same month.‡

I feel confident that you will have perceived the necessity for exercising the most careful economy in all matters relating to the Colony under your government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 2.

Colonial Office to Admiralty.

Sir, *Downing Street, August* 16, 1875.

I AM directed by the Earl of Carnarvon to transmit to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, an extract from a communication received from the Governor of Fiji, respecting the despatch to those islands from Sydney of medical officers and stores on board Her Majesty's ship "Barracouta." Sir A. Gordon has reported in another despatch that the acting head of the police, Lieutenant Olive, R.N., has been doing, according to all accounts, excellent service in Fiji.

I am, &c.
(Signed) J. PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 3.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, August* 16, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches dated Sydney the 4th and 10th of June last,§ respectively, relating to the outbreak of measles in Fiji.

I approve of the course you adopted in the immediate despatch to those islands on your arrival in Sydney of the medical officers and stores in Her Majesty's ship "Barracouta."

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

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* No. 36 of C. 1337 of 1875.
† Not printed.
‡ Ibid., No. 32.
§ Ibid., Nos. 34 and 35.

No. 4.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor Sir H. Robinson, G.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, August* 18, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 3rd of June,* reporting that you had transferred to Sir A. Gordon the administration of the Government of Fiji, and had handed over to him the records and papers in your possession connected with that Colony.

I take this opportunity of conveying to you the acknowledgment of Her Majesty's Government for the assistance rendered by yourself and by the Government of New South Wales in connection with the establishment of the Government of Fiji.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 5.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, August* 18, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Sir Hercules Robinson's despatch of the 3rd of June,* relating to the affairs of Fiji; and I transmit to you, for your information, a copy of the reply which I have returned to it.†

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 6.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, August* 23, 1875.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 10th of June,‡ inclosing extracts from private letters from missionaries, planters, and others, in regard to the outbreak of measles in Fiji.

2. I have laid these papers before the Queen, who was deeply concerned and grieved at the accounts they contain.

Her Majesty has commanded me to convey to you the expression of her sympathy for the sufferers by this terrible visitation.

3. I have observed, with much satisfaction, that many—and apparently the large majority of the white settlers—have stayed at their posts, and used every effort to stem the disease.

4. I should be glad to be informed of the names of those who have shown, under such trying circumstances, special courage and sense of duty. To such the thanks of all are due; and you will not fail to convey to them the acknowledgment of Her Majesty's Government for any services which they may have rendered on this occasion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARNON.

No. 7.

Governor Sir H. G. Robinson, G.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received August 23.)

My Lord, *Government House, Sydney, June* 29, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship a copy of a despatch, with its inclosure, which I have received from Mr. Layard relative to a trip lately undertaken by Mr. H. C. Thurston, the Stipendary Magistrate of Viti Levu, to mountain districts

* No. 33 of C. 1337 of 1875. † No. 4. ‡ No. 35 of C. 1337 of 1875.

of Namki and Upper Bati-wai, in company with Captain Simpson, R.N., and two other officers of Her Majesty's ship "Blanche."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERCULES ROBINSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 7.

Sir, *Government House, Fiji, June* 2, 1875.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 5th February, 1875, and other correspondence, on the subject of my interview with the hill tribes at Navuso, I now have the honour to transmit, for your Excellency's perusal, copy of a letter from Mr. H. C. Thurston, the Stipendary Magistrate of South Viti Levu, reporting the incidents of a trip lately undertaken by him to the mountain districts of Namki and Upper Bati-wai, in company with Captain Simpson and two other officers of Her Majesty's ship "Blanche."

2. Your Excellency will perceive that one of the Chiefs at least has carried out his promise of making a road, and I feel sure had not the measles raged so fearfully throughout the country, others would have been constructed.

3. Captain Simpson reports verbally to me that the natives were very civil and obliging, that he passed through some splendid country, and was astonished at the size of the Navua river, which they descended.

4. These reports are peculiarly gratifying to me, as evincing that our visit to the Kai Tholos has been productive of much good, in spite of the unhappy visitation of the measles; and I am sure that with a more settled state of things, frequent communication, and the establishment of a post here and there, with two or three Europeans in charge, we shall have very little, if any, trouble with the hill tribes, whose number is so much reduced.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. L. LAYARD, *Administrator.*

His Excellency Sir Hercules Robinson, G.C.M.G.,
Governor of New South Wales and Fiji.

Inclosure 2 in No. 7.

Sir, *Rewa, May* 25, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your information, my return to this post, after a lapse of some days' visit to the mountain districts of Namki and Upper Bati-wai.

I was accompanied during this trip by Captain Simpson of Her Majesty's ship "Blanche" and Lieutenants Praed and Walker.

We penetrated the island at Vei Vatu Loa and arrived at Namki the same day, after a hard march. The Roko Na Matinitobua also accompanied us.

The Namki mountaineers informed me that they had lost 365 men, women, and children during the late epidemic. The disease has died completely out, however, but many are yet suffering from bodily weakness.

I am happy to report that order and quietness prevail at Namki, and that the people are obedient to the law.

The Roko has caused a very good road indeed to be constructed from Vei Vatu Loa to the Namki Valley. It is now the best mountain road upon this island, and reflects great credit upon the Chief and his people.

We left Namki for the Upper Bati-wai *viâ* the town of Na Kno Wai Wai. After our arrival at the old site of Bega we descended the river, first, on a bamboo raft, and then in a canoe, and arrived at the Navua without any accident whatever.

This trip has had a very good effect upon the natives through whose districts we passed, and I can with great confidence inform his Honour the Administrator that they may with safety be classed with the most loyal tribes in the group.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY CHAS. THURSTON,
Stipendiary Magistrate, Viti Levu South and Kandavu.

The Hon. J. B. Thurston,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 8.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, September* 8, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Sir H. Robinson's despatch of the 29th June,* forwarding a despatch from Mr. Layard, with an inclosure, from Mr. Thurston, relative to a trip undertaken by him to the mountain districts of Namki and Upper Bati-wai, in company with Captain Simpson, R.N., and two other officers of Her Majesty's ship "Blanche."

I take this opportunity of expressing my great satisfaction at the ability, zeal, and courage which Mr. Thurston has exhibited, especially during the pestilence which has proved so fatal in Fiji.

You will be so good as to convey to him this expression of my approval of his conduct.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 9.

Administrator Layard to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received September 27.)

My Lord, *Government House, Fiji, June* 15, 1875.

ABOUT three weeks since, the mission brig "John Wesley" arrived in this port, on her way to found a mission in New Britain, New Ireland, &c.

2. Reports reaching me from various sources that the Wesleyan missionaries were, by misrepresentations, inducing young Fijians, whom they had educated for teachers, and their wives and families, to accompany the mission, informing them that they were going to a "New Britain" like that of which they were now subjects, and not to a country where cannibalism prevailed, where fever and ague were rife, and where they would be subject to privations and hardships, I deemed it my duty, especially as the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs had lately informed me that Her Majesty's Government disapproved of native Fijians and Polynesians being removed for service to islands where there was no Consular supervision and protection, to cause inquiry to be made into the truth of these reports, and, in order the more fully to satisfy myself and my Executive Council, I requested the leader of the mission, the Rev. J. Brown, and the teachers (nine in number) to meet us, and talk the matter over.

3. These young men, some of them said to be of good birth, and all more or less educated, I could not in common fairness class with "Fijian labourers." I felt that they had a better right to judge for themselves than those who, still under the sway of their Chiefs, go blindly to work on any plantation to which they are sent, or refuse to go at their bidding. True, it might be argued that these men had but shifted their allegiance to their spiritual masters, and would accept their dictum as to the disposal of their services. This is the bent of mind of the average Fijian; he, to the letter, carries out the precept, "let every one be subject unto the higher powers." I therefore resolved to place before them personally some of the dangers of the task they had undertaken, and to hear from them that they fully understood what they were about, and went of their own free will and accord.

4. I forward, for your Lordship's information, copy of the report of the gentlemen to whom I first entrusted the duty of investigating the matter, and also a copy of the notes made by the Clerk of the Council at our meeting.

5. Your Lordship will see from these documents that the young men go into the affair with their eyes open, and after due caution. If Mr. Brown carries out his professions, they will receive a fair amount of moral support from the presence of the mission vessel. I warned them that Her Majesty's Government could not be called upon to protect them or avenge their death. If they succeed in establishing themselves in the islands, I hear it is the intention of white missionaries to follow. If they are clubbed and eaten, I presume the white missionary will not deem the time come for him to venture.

6. I requested the attendance of two intelligent natives, Ratu Meli, the magistrate, and Ratu David, J.P., our special messenger to the natives, in order that a true report of the matter might reach the native community; and finding no reason to interfere further in the matter, I allowed the vessel to proceed on her voyage.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. L. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 9.

Sir, *Immigration Agent's Office, Totoga, June* 11, 1875.

WE have the honour to report, in pursuance of the instructions conveyed in our late interview with you at Nasova. We have had two interviews with the Fijian teachers who are about to embark in the "John Wesley" for the purpose of establishing a new branch of Wesleyan mission at New Britain.

Our object was to ascertain from the Fijian teachers whether they fully understood where they were going, and whether they thoroughly comprehended the position and nature of the country, and the difficulties and dangers attendant upon the mission.

We associated Ratu Mele, the native magistrate of Levuka, with us in this duty, and derived much assistance from him, through his putting our questions to the teachers in more idiomatic Fijian than we could use.

At our first interview with the teachers there were present six males and four females, and we opened the conversation by inquiring where they were going, how many of them, what had induced them to go, and if they were taking their wives and families with them.

They informed us that they were going to New Britain, but beyond the name they knew nothing of the country; that the number of teachers appointed to go were six married, with their wives and families, and three single men.

They had heard that at the big meeting in Sydney it was resolved that some teachers be sent from Fiji to New Britain, and they had been elected to go by the mission here.

We then proceeded to point out to them the various dangers they would be subjected to in their new course of life, comprising sickness with which they were unacquainted, a savage and hostile race of cannibals, a country of which we Europeans knew very little, and the especial dangers they incurred by taking their wives and children at first to a country where they might not even find sufficiency of food, and from which there was no escape if threatened with danger; at the same time reminding them that now, as subjects of our Queen, they were equally entitled to go where they pleased as ourselves; yet the Government considered it its duty to make them thoroughly acquainted with all the difficulties and dangers which beset them in the enterprise on which they were about to embark.

That if, after hearing and talking over among themselves all that they had heard from us, they still determined to go, we would say no more, but remind them that should they in the country they were going to fall victims to disease or death by violence, they or their friends can bear witness that they did not go without first being fully informed of the dangers before them.

We urged them to accept what we said as good advice; that many parts of Fiji had not yet received the "Lotu," and that ample work remained to be done in their own country, without going to a country of which they knew nothing.

Our arguments at this interview appeared to affect them, and they listened very attentively to all we said, and appointed to meet us again in the afternoon, and give us a reply.

In the meantime they would discuss the matter among themselves.

We again met in the afternoon, according to appointment, and found a larger muster of male teachers than at the morning interview, but only two females were present.

After a little conversation we asked them for replies to the inquiries we had made in the morning.

They replied, "That they had been appointed to go, and would go accordingly; they were aware of the dangers, but trusted in their missionary; they had been consulted, and agreed to go of their own free will, and their wives would go with them."

"They had signed no agreement, nor would receive any pay where they were going, and would remain there until sent for by the mission ship."

As we saw that their minds were perfectly made up on the subject, we again put before them the advisability of leaving their females behind them for at least a time, but they replied "that the mission advised them that if they did not take them they might go astray in their new homes, and it was better to take them."

As further reasoning was useless, we shook hands with them all round, wishing them God-speed on their journey.

We have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY BENTLEY,
Protector of Polynesians.
M. H. FRASER,
Assistant Secretary, Native Affairs.

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

P.S.—We would recommend that they be examined by the medical officer of the Government before embarking.

M. H. F.

Note.—The whole party was examined by the medical officer, and a clean bill of health given.

E. L. L.

Inclosure 2 in No. 9.

REPORT of a meeting of his Honour the Administrator and Executive Council with the Rev. Mr. Brown, and nine native teachers of the Wesleyan Mission, for the purpose of ascertaining whether the said teachers were willing to go on the mission to the Duke of York and other islands, and if they had been informed of the nature of the country and dangers attendant on their residence there. Held at Nasova, on Saturday, the 12th June, 1875.

Present:

His Honour the Administrator,	The Protector of Polynesians,
The Honourable the Colonial Secretary,	Ratus Meli and David,
The Honourable the Colonial Treasurer,	Mr. Wm. Scott, Interpreting,
The Assistant Secretary, Native Affairs,	The Rev. Mr. Brown,

and nine native teachers.

His Honour opened the meeting by introducing Mr. William Scott to the Rev. Mr. Brown, and stated that he had requested Mr. Scott to act as interpreter.

Mr. Brown was quite satisfied that Mr. Scott would act fairly, and interpret conscientiously. He could not speak Fijian himself.

His Honour then stated that his reason for calling this meeting was, that certain reports had reached him that the Fijian native teachers who were being taken in the "John Wesley" to the Duke of York Island, New Britain, and New Ireland, were not aware of the dangerous nature of the mission. He had written to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, asking for instructions as to what he should do in the event of any person wishing to take Fijian labourers to foreign countries, and had received a reply stating that no Fijians should be allowed to leave Fiji for any place where there was no British Consul resident; but his Honour did not consider that this case came within the meaning of that letter. He wished to hear from Mr. Brown, and the natives personally, if they were aware of the danger of their intended mission, and if the nature of the country, the privations they might possibly have to endure, and all matters connected with those islands, had been fully explained to them, so that should any untoward events happen hereafter, no blame or responsibility could attach itself to him. Messrs. Fraser and Bentley, and Ratu Meli, the native Stipendiary Magistrate, had seen the men at his Honour's request, and they had informed his Honour that the men seemed to know where they were going, but for his own satisfaction he had decided to have a personal interview.

The Rev. Mr. Brown was much obliged, and believed it was right that everything should be looked into beforehand. He believed that the natives of these islands, who had enjoyed the benefits of religion, should do their share of mission work, and aid in spreading the gospel to the Island, where heathenism prevailed. The idea of the mission was started in Sydney, and he received his instructions from there. His instructions were to get the volunteers from here, then go to Samoa and get some from there, and then go to Tonga, from thence to Duke of York Island to establish a head station, and by degrees, when opportunity offered, or an opening occured, send missionaries out to the adjoining islands. Had he been aware of the measles being so bad here, the vessel would not have come here at all, but gone straight on to Samoa and Tonga; but, having come in, and finding things not very bad, and having seen the Health Officer, he determined on carrying out his original instructions, and called for two volunteers from each district; there being ten districts, that would give twenty men—a great many more volunteers than were required. The danger of the mission was pointed out to them, they were told that some of them might die of disease, and others might be killed, and all matters referring to those Islands were explained to them. That they were then told to think over the matter for a week, after which interval, they being still willing to go, these men here present were selected after consideration. That when these men go on board they leave all their clothes behind, new outfits being provided for them on board. This is done to prevent the danger of infection. He might as well state that he saw Commodore Goodenough, not knowing of a decided formation of a Government at that time, and had got a letter from the Commodore to protect him, should he fall in with any cruizers, from any interference on their part for carrying Polynesians.

His Honour was very glad to have had the opportunity of hearing Mr. Brown.

Mr. Brown stated that Captain Simpson, of Her Majesty's ship "Blanche," and Captain Fergusson and others trading with the Duke of York Island, had told him that that place was quite safe.

His Honour had heard that the Duke of York islanders were great cannibals.

Mr. Brown thought they were cannibals, but that the Island was quite safe for whites, the head Chief, King Dick, being well-intentioned towards the whites.

Mr. Thurston thought that the men should be spoken to personally; that it was the duty of the Government to look after these men as British subjects, though they were teachers, in the same manner as is done with Her Majesty's subjects in British India, where no men are allowed to leave without the knowledge or sanction of some public authority.

His Honour asked Mr. Brown if he had read the report in Sydney "Morning Herald" of the 5th May, 1875, of the mission to New Guinea?

Mr. Brown had not seen it.

Mr. Thurston thought that some means of communication should be provided for the men if they wished or were forced to leave the islands.

Mr. Brown stated that the Commodore had issued instructions for all ships of war to call at Duke of York Island, and traders were always calling in. His intention was to make all the arrangements, and set the men up properly, and then leave them as if for good, and go out to sea, staying away two or three weeks, and then run in again. He thought that if the islanders meant any treachery, or intended evil, they would have made some signs by that time, and he would know by their conduct during his absence how they meant to behave, and would act accordingly.

His Honour asked if the men were to be left together?

Mr Brown stated that, for the present, they would be left together; but that in future, when things were ready for it, they would be sent out to the different islands.

His Honour asked about the food.

Mr. Brown said they were taking stores with them, and trade to buy food with. He would not leave much trade in possession of the teachers on the Island, as the sight of much trade might incite the covetousness of the islanders, and lead them to rob and murder; but would give a present to the Chief, and make an arrangement with him to supply the teachers with food while he was away, promising to give, when he went back again, another present, if the Chief had acted well. This, he thought, was the best way.

His Honour asked if teachers were paid any salary, and if these men were in the receipt of salary for their services in this mission?

Mr. Brown said that head teachers were paid about 10*l.* a year, and were supplied with food by the natives. These men were volunteers, and in the receipt of no

wages. They had their outfit, and everything provided for them, but no arrangements have been made about pay.

The mission has no land at Duke of York Island, but Captain Fergusson says there will be no difficulty in getting some. You can get a Chief to put up a house on his own land for you if you pay him.

Mr. Brown further stated that, when the time came, some of the missionaries would be stationed on the larger islands. May be, the first so stationed would be in Blanche Bay.

His Honour had heard they were great savages in Blanche Bay.

Mr. Thurston knew that white men had been training for the last twenty-five years at Duke of York Island, and that place may be quite safe; but men from that island would be eaten on either of the larger islands if they ventured to go there.

Mr. Brown had been told that King Dick has great power in several towns on the larger islands.

His Honour then said to the native teachers, through the Interpreter, Mr. Scott, that he was only anxious that the men should thoroughly know where they were going, and what they were going to, and that they were going of their own free will, and with a due sense of the danger of their mission. They were British subjects, and might do as they liked, but no coercion should be used; that they were going to savage islands, that they might want food, or they might be killed; that they could do as they liked about going; that his Honour was satisfied that all precautions had been taken by Mr. Brown for their safety, so far as human forethought could provide. He had a paper which would be explained to them by Mr. Scott, and if they were willing to go, and went of their own free will, each of them would say so. (Mr. Scott then explained to the teachers the account in the "Sydney Morning Herald," of the 5th May, before referred to). That they were British subjects, and could do as they liked; but that, if they did not like it, and returned, there was plenty of missionary work on these islands with the Kai Tholos, without going farther for it.

Mr. Brown here objected, that a little encouragement might be given. That this mission had the goodwill of the civilized world. He thought that the matters were being placed in a darker light than there was any reason for believing was the case. He thought that the men should not be frightened from it.

Mr. Thurston here explained to the natives that his Honour did not wish to stop them from going, but he wished to know, for his own satisfaction, that they were going of their own free will, that they knew what they were going to, and what those islands were, so that his Honour might be free from responsibility if anything happened to them. His Honour did not mean they would be killed, or that they would get sick, but that these things were possible. (Mr. Thurston's remarks, which were in the Fijian language, were explained to the Reverend Mr. Brown by Mr. Scott.)

The teachers were then asked if they were willing to go, and if they had anything to say.

One of them asked if each of them was to speak, or one for all.

His Honour said that that was left to them; if they all wished to speak he would hear them; if they liked to choose a spokesman, they were at liberty to do so.

One of the teachers, the leader and head of the native party, then got up and said—

"We are all of one mind. We know what those islands are. We have given ourselves to this work. If we get killed, well; if we live, well. We have had everything explained to us, and know the danger. We are willing to go."

All the teachers said they were of the same mind.

His Honour was very glad to hear that they knew where they were going, and considered it very satisfactory.

A paper was then translated to the teachers, setting forth that they, the teachers, were well acquainted with the nature of the country they were going to, &c. (Copy attached, and marked A.)

The teachers all said they understood what was said, and agreed to it.

His Honour was very glad such was the case. He would always take an interest in them, and it only remained for him to wish them God speed.

The Meeting then broke up at 12·45 P.M.

(Signed) C. H. H. IRVINE,
Clerk of the Executive Council.

(A.)

We, the undersigned, Wesleyan teachers, do solemnly and truly declare—

That we were fully and carefully informed by the promoters of the mission to New Britain and New Ireland, &c., of the dangers which may be incurred to life and limb from the cannibal propensities of the natives of those islands, and the insalubrious nature of the climate, which produces fever and ague, and diseases of that character.

We also were fully acquainted with the discomforts we may undergo from want of the food to which we are accustomed, and from not being able to speak the language of the people among whom we should be left without protection or support for some months.

And we declare that, fully knowing all this, we make an election to proceed on this mission of our own free will, not compelled thereto by any orders or authority of any one, but simply desirous of spreading the knowledge of the Gospel of Christ among the heathen inhabitants of those islands.

Department of Native Affairs, Nasova,
June 12, 1875.

I hereby certify that the foregoing was interpreted and fully explained to the Fiji natives about to proceed in the "John Wesley" on a mission to New Britain and New Ireland, at Nasova, on Saturday, the 12th instant, in the presence of his Honour the Administrator and the Executive Council, and that the said Fijians thoroughly understood the same.

A translation is hereunto annexed, marked (A.)

(Signed) WM. SCOTT.

Levuka, June 15, 1875.

No. 10.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received September 27.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Ovalau, Fiji, June* 25, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that I arrived off Levuka yesterday in Her Majesty's ship "Pearl," and to-day landed at the Government offices at Nasova at which I have temporarily taken up my residence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. GORDON.

No. 11.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received September 27.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Ovalau, Fiji, June* 25, 1875.

YOUR Lordship may possibly have remarked in my despatch of this day's date,* announcing my landing, the omission of the usual addition to such an announcement, that I have "taken the oaths of office and assumed the administration of the Government."

2. Until the arrival of the Attorney-General and the Treasurer there are not the necessary materials for the formation of the Legislative Council, but unless the promulgation of the Charter of the Colony is immediately followed by the passing of an Ordinance giving effect to the Acts of the existing Provisional Administration, and authorizing the prosecution of suits and cases commenced under it, all the Acts of the existing Government will be reduced to the same absolute nullity as those of Cakobau's Government previous to the cession. The Courts of Law will be at once annihilated without any substitute for them being provided; cases pending before them will all have to be commenced *de novo* before the new Courts when constituted. All appointments will lapse, and their present temporary occupants must be formally re-appointed until the arrival aud appointment of the permanent officials, an arrangement which it for obvious reasons desirable to avoid.

* No. 10.

3. I have therefore determined to await the arrival of the Attorney-General, and if possible, that of the Chief Justice and Treasurer, before proclaiming the Charter and formally assuming the Government; meanwhile, I shall be daily acquiring useful information, and the Administrator, Mr. Layard, will take no steps without previous consultation with me, or without my sanction.

4. I am not sorry to have some further opportunity of observation before I commence the detailed duties of administration; and as, of course, I shall, until I am sworn in, only receive half-salary, I am glad that the remainder should be available for the remuneration of the Administrator, who has not received, and cannot now for another month at the earliest, receive any instructions, either from your Lordship or from the Foreign Office, as to his movements, and who therefore will not, as I understand from him, leave Fiji for some time to come.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. GORDON.

No. 12.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received September 27.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Ovalau, Fiji, June 27, 1875.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the inclosed extract from one of the Colonial newspapers giving an account of my arrival at this place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. GORDON.

Inclosure in No. 12.

Extract from the "Fiji Times" of June 25, 1875.

ARRIVAL AND LANDING OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE SIR ARTHUR H. GORDON, K.C.M.G., IN FIJI.—For some weeks we have suffered from gloomy and desponding sort of weather, but towards noon on Thursday there was a marked change in the elements, and the humid fog that had for weeks enwrapped the hills of Ovalau suddenly cleared away as the "Pearl," with all steam up and a favourable breeze into the bargain, loomed in sight of Levuka, bringing with her the harbinger of prosperity in the person of the chosen Representative of Her Majesty the Queen. Without wishing to impress our readers with any superstitious ideas, we cannot but regard the various concomitants that have associated themselves with the Governor's arrival as good omens for the future of the Colony. Queen's weather ushers him into the new field of his official duties, and we venture to hope that the beams of sunshine that have welcomed his Excellency will expand into a glorious summer of prosperity and contentment. Although it was mooted abroad that Sir Arthur Gordon would land privately on the present occasion, intimation was sent to the heads of the various official departments to present themselves at Nasova at 11 o'clock (yesterday) to receive his Excellency, and their number were considerably swelled by all our leading townsmen turning out to meet him on his landing and accord to him a truly British welcome. Accordingly as the hour of 11 approached, the road to Nasova was thronged by persons making for the Government Buildings, which have been prepared to receive his Excellency and suite in as suitable a manner as a limited space of time allowed of.

In the square at Nasova a detachment of marines was drawn up, and opposite to them the native force under Lieutenant Olive presented a very creditable appearance, as they awaited under arms the landing of Sir Arthur Gordon. The buildings recently renovated, backed with a mass of luxuriant tropical foliage, stood out in bold relief, whilst the military array of men in their various costumes, and the diversified toilettes of the ladies who honoured the scene with their presence, rendered the tableau pleasing and attractive. At half-past eleven the distant strains of the band of the "Pearl" rendering "God Save the Queen," gave the intimation that his Excellency was prepared to debark, and shortly after a Vice-Regal salute of seventeen guns was given, and as each report echoed and reverberated among the surrounding hills, he neared the shore, accompanied by his staff and the several officers of the men-of-war, conspicuous

amongst others was the well-known and esteemed Commodore Goodenough. The Administrator of the Government, and the Colonial Secretary, met his Excellency on the wharf, and having interchanged the usual courtesies, escorted him to the square, where, in approved style, the marines and natives presented arms as the Vice-Regal party passed through the ranks on their way to the principal entrance of Government buildings. After a few hearty cheers his Excellency appeared on the verandah, and bowing to about 300 gentlemen who were present, he addressed the following words to them in a clear and sonorous voice, well modulated, and giving one the idea of thought and consideration being bestowed on every sentence that he uttered :—

"Gentlemen,—These two boxes contain—the one, the Royal Charter of the Colony; the other, my Commission under the Great Seal, as its first Governor. But it is not my intention to proclaim that Charter, or to read that Commission, until the machinery required for carrying on the Government under them has been organized, and, therefore, although I shall at once assume the control and direction of affairs, the Administration of the Government will continue as at present for some little time to come. Meanwhile in preparing for the task I have undertaken, I have to request the co-operation and aid of all resident in this Colony. In communicating with me freely, whether personally or by letter, either to inform me as to matters which I ought to know, or make suggestions which may be useful, you will do me a real service; and although I certainly cannot say that every, or indeed, for that matter, any suggestion made to me will necessarily be adopted, this I can say, and do say, that every such suggestion shall be well weighed and carefully considered."

His Excellency was listened to with wrapt interest, and at its conclusion three hearty cheers were given for the expression of such sentiments, so much in accordance with public expectation and desire; likewise three cheers for Commodore Goodenough.

His Excellency then held a brief levee, when several gentlemen were duly presented, but as it had not transpired that Sir Arthur Gordon would receive, many did not avail themselves of the honour of an introduction, but await that privilege at a future date.

The native troops were next passed in review, and his Excellency appeared to manifest much approval at the very creditable and efficient manner they passed through their evolutions.

No. 13.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received September 27.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Ovalau, Fiji, June 27, 1875.*

YOUR Lordship will, I am sure, be anxious to learn what report I have to make with respect to the terrible epidemic by which these islands have been lately visited.

2. I am happy to be able to inform your Lordship that the disease is said to have disappeared from this island and most other parts of the group. In some islands, however, it still lingers, and from some there has been no report.

3. I inclose a Memorandum from Mr. Thurston, the Acting Colonial Secretary, for which I called immediately on my arrival. In addition to the report of deaths appended to it, I have the honour to inclose all the other statistical information which I have been able to obtain, and which is, as your Lordship will see, meagre enough. In fact, Mr. Thurston's list and mine put together only relate to this island, to those of Gau, Nairai, Koro, Vanua Balavu, Lakemba, Cicia, Nayau, and one province out of the seven into which the island of Viti Levu is divided.

4. The only Magistrate's reports which contain much information are those of Mr. Emberson, Stipendiary Magistrate at Loma Loma, from which I inclose some extracts. I cannot, however, I fear, possibly undertake to-day to give your Lordship anything like a detailed digest of the mass of papers submitted to me on the subject of the epidemic, or a clear and accurate account of its progress and effects. This duty I hope to perform by the next mail, and I am confident that, bearing in mind the multitude of matters which require immediate attention on my first arrival, your Lordship will not expect such a report from me on the day next but one after that on which I landed.

5. Your Lordship will observe from one of Mr. Emberson's reports that the people of Ono are said to be starving, and to have been subsisting so far back as two months

ago on yaka roots and old cocoa-nuts only, and that he asks for immediate assistance, which it has not yet apparently been found possible to afford.

6. I propose, therefore, the day after to-morrow, to send the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Macgregor, in Her Majesty's ship "Barracouta," to that island with medicines and a supply of food, kindly placed at my disposal by the Commodore. He will also visit Lakemba and Loma Loma (Vanua Balavu) before his return, and will leave medicines and medical comforts, as the foundation of a dispensary, where he finds persons competent and willing to undertake the care of such establishments.

7. On the same day I shall despatch Dr. Mayo to Taviuni and Vanua Leon, in the schooner "Lady Palmerston," a trader plying between Mua Point in Taviuni and this port.

8. Owing to misconceptions, on which it would be needless to dwell, the services of these medical gentlemen had not been rendered available previously to my arrival, as had been intended by me when I despatched the "Barracouta" before me from Sydney.

9. Many planters have shown great humanity towards the natives, and careful attention to them. Until I make my report I cannot give anything like a list of those who have done so; but I may at once mention Mr. Ryder, of Mango, and Mr. Barrack, of Savu Savu. Where proper care has been taken, and medical directions have been observed, there has been very little mortality, which suggests the painful reflection that probably much of this terrible mortality was preventable, and might have been avoided had prompt and judicious measures been taken at the outset of the epidemic.

10. Several of the clergy of the Wesleyan body, and of the Roman Catholic Church, as well as Mr. Floyd, a clergyman of the Church of England, resident here, have rendered good service, and I must not forget to notice the indefatigable exertions of Lieutenant Olive, R.M., commanding the police force, whose conduct in this matter has been above all praise, and who has worked with an unselfish disregard of trouble or labour which has injured his health, and exhausted his private pecuniary resources, but which has deeply endeared him to the native population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. GORDON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 13.

Memorandum.

IN accordance with his Excellency's direction, the Acting Colonial Secretary herewith forwards letters (in original) from planters and Government officials reporting the progress and effect of the late epidemic of measles.

2. The disease was imported to the Colony on the 12th of January last, but for some weeks afterwards the probability of its spreading among the people caused no great anxiety. It was understood that the persons (natives) infected were convalescent, and they were isolated so far as was practicable or seemed necessary.

3. The persons affected were the ex-King Thakobau, his sons Timothy and Joseph, and two of their servants.

Two causes strongly operated to spread the disease:—

First, the great number of Fijians who, on the second and third week after his arrival, visited the village in which the ex-King lay; and secondly, the impossibility of impressing the natives with a sense of their danger should the disease extend itself beyond Thakobau and his family.

4. About the middle of February reports arrived from the various provinces that measles had made its appearance. The districts of Rewa and Kandavu were first attacked, but the disease was spreading with great rapidity; and by the early or middle part of March disastrous news came in from all quarters.

5. The epidemic reached its crisis in Ovalau and its neighbourhood towards the end of March, and, the eastern district excepted, reached it elsewhere in the beginning of April; from that time it gradually decreased, and by the end of May, the following month, it seemed to have died out.

6. It has been supposed the smaller islets of the Lau (the Windward Islands) were not visited until later, but as the inhabitants of Ono—the most southern island in the group—were attacked in the latter end of March and beginning of April, it is most likely that the disease was, in April and May, carried to every inhabited spot in the Eastern Group.

7. The conditions of the Fijians has been painful in the extreme. A great want of food occurred, or rather physical strength was wanting, to dig up and carry in the yams and dalo, which forms the chief article of food among the Fijians. For the same reason the Government could purchase no supplies. In this matter Maafu, the Chief of Lau, did good service by despatching his schooner to Ono with some yams, which had been dug in advance of the sickness.

8. In Ovalau the mortality was very great, and for some time it was impossible to obtain a boat's crew. Many small craft were lying in harbour quite unable to proceed to sea. The sick and dying were attended only by Europeans, many of whom also contracted the disease, and burials became almost an impossibility.

9. Medicines and other necessaries were freely given by the Magistrates, and such settlers as would interest themselves in the natives' behalf, and much good was, doubtless, effected. The observation and experience, however, of persons so engaged leads to the conclusion that, practically, medicine and food were of less importance or value than advice and encouragement. It was possible in some slight degree to persuade a patient to refrain from exposing himself to wet and cold, but it was generally impossible to make him take medicine or eat European food. In many cases medicine was refused in consequence of the most sinister suspicions.

10. As an evidence of the good results where medical treatment could be enforced, the slight mortality among the native constabulary in barracks at Nasova may be advanced. At the outbreak of measles the total strength was 147. No man escaped the disease, but only nine died.

11. Four months having now elapsed since the epidemic first broke out, it is morally certain that it has disappeared ere this, and all the recent rumours, native and otherwise, confirm this supposition.

12. The value of the medicines supplied for the use of the natives by direction of the medical officer under authority of his Honour the Administrator amount to 185*l.*, but the total expenditure for food, medical comforts, and other necessaries amounts to about 600*l.*

13. In connection with paragraphs 5 and 11, the Acting Colonial Secretary has the honour to annex, for his Excellency's perusal, a letter from Dr. Cruikshank, dated the 24th instant.

14. In the district of Rewa an European and native officer has been appointed to visit the native towns and enforce their thorough cleansing, and also to cause mounds of earth to be raised upon insufficiently buried bodies.

On the whole, there is every reason to believe that the bad state of the native villages has been very much exaggerated. The sites of native towns as a rule are always bad; they are usually dirty in the extreme. A reason for the first fact is, that the Fijians always prefer mangrove, or other swamps to build in, for the ease with which a town may be fortified. A large town is frequently built in a morass, yet surrounded with large and healthy sites. The future health and social improvement of the native race will be, in a great measure, secured and advanced by the Chief's causing the majority of present towns to be removed to better sites, about which, as native wars have ceased, there should be no great difficulty.

15. No accurate return of the total mortality has yet been made, nor, beyond an approximation, can one be made. As an instance of the losses at places where the population was known, the returns from Ovalau and Koro are annexed.

Reports from the mountains are to the effect that the inland have suffered far less than the coast people.

(Signed) JOHN B. THURSTON,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

June 26, 1875.

Inclosure 2 in No. 13.

CENSUS of Population in the Districts of Ovalau, Koro, and Ba, before and after the Measles.

Districts.	Before Measles.	No. of Deaths.	Approximate Population
Ovalau	1,546	447	1,099
Koro	2,543	688	1,855
Ba	7,925	2,214	5,711

Department of Native Affairs, Nasova, June 26, 1875.

Inclosure 3 in No. 13.

DEATHS from Measles.

Vanua Balavu	382
Cicia	65
Lakemba	127
Nayau (up to May 27, 1875)	53
Gau	550
Nairai (up to June 12, 1875)	160

Inclosure 4 in No. 13.

Extract from a Letter from Mr. H. G. Emberson, Stipendiary Magistrate at Loma Loma, to the Secretary for Native Affairs, Levuka.

April 6, 1875.

ON my return here I found naught but death, desolation, and woe, and regret to report their stern sway as yet unbroken. Whole families have been carried off. But for the incessant beat of the death-drum one might fancy Loma Loma deserted. I have applied myself to all I can, and have distributed all medicine I can afford, and other whites have helped. I attended first the most influential and sensible people hoping, if they recovered, heart would be inspired into others, but though I am thankful in thinking that I have saved a few lives, the proverb "God helpeth those who help themselves" is fearfully verified: these wretched natives wont help themselves, they lose courage, cower down to die, die they do, dying they are, and will be in dozens and hundreds. I had to give up an idea of a hospital. Starvation makes many recruits, for numbers have no one to bring them food or cook what is available. The work has but commenced, and medicines, &c., already are failing, and what remains the whites require for their labour. I want (see margin*), &c., a smart craft to enable me to visit the outlying islands and convey to them such advice and warning, without which I fear their depopulation. I cannot but fear you will not be in a position to furnish me with these things; but I consider it, however, my duty to lay the state of this district thus fully before you. Without any help all that can be shall be done; but it is not pleasant to meditate on the result. I especially dread for the outer islands of this district, for no word of caution or instructions have yet reached them, and I cannot but forsee that the contagion will be carried to them by their canoes.

And on the 6th April, 1875, Mr. Emberson adds:—

Many are almost starving for want of help. All my constables have been ill, and but two only just able to crawl about. Medicine is nearly done.

Inclosure 5 in No. 13.

Extract from a Letter dated May 7, 1875, *from Mr. Emberson, Stipendiary Magistrate at Loma Loma, to the Secretary for Native Affairs.*

I HEAR from natives arriving from Lakeba that Maafu has just dispatched the "Xarifa" and "Caroline" to Ono, with some food for the natives of that island, who are reported to be starving. The "Caroline," on a late trip there, made in spite of my warning, imported thither the measles, so the island must indeed be in a bad plight.

I beg to inclose a memorandum received from the Rev. Rooney, containing his teacher's report from Ono. This confirms what was told me. You will see they are apparently living on Yaka roots and old nuts only.

I take this early opportunity of informing you, so that if it be in your power to do anything in the matter no time may be lost.

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* Castor oil, laudanum, chlorodyne, painkiller, rice, biscuits, flour, tea, arrowroot, &c.

No. 14.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received September 27.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Ovalau, Fiji, July 3, 1875.*

ON Monday last the Vuni Valu Thakombau came here, to make to me his formal acknowledgment of homage and submission to the Queen.

I inclose a tolerably correct Report of the ceremony from one of the local newspapers.

2. Thakombau appeared somewhat agitated whilst presenting his offering; nor was this unnatural, for although he has signed Deeds of Cession, and seen his flag hauled down, he has probably never before publicly performed an act of personal submission, or uttered the peculiar exclamation which expresses vassalage. Were I not aware of the force of prejudice I should have felt surprise that any one could question the intelligence or dignity of this old Chief. In both respects he is certainly very superior to either of his sons whom I have seen.

3. Yesterday he visited me privately, and we had a conversation of considerable length, but of no very great importance. He seemed rather apprehensive as to the effect on himself and his people of unknown laws, and the operation of new institutions, but was, I think, reassured by my explanations.

4. I invited him to communicate with me freely and frequently, and have no doubt that he will avail himself of the permission. His assistance in the management of the native tribes will be invaluable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. GORDON.

Inclosure in No. 14.

Extract from the "Fiji Times" of July 3, 1875.

ON the afternoon of the 26th the Vuni Valu arrived from Bau, and immediately sent to ask if the Governor would receive him on the Tuesday following; receiving an affirmative reply, messengers were sent out in all directions to summon the people together and to prepare the magiti. Most unfortunately the ranks of the people have been greatly thinned by sickness, or the natives would have assembled in greater numbers.

On Monday the villagers were employed in preparing their gala dresses, or in carrying in food to the little village of Draiba, where the Vuni Valu had taken up his quarters, and towards 11 o'clock on Tuesday, the 29th instant, the ground at a short distance in front of the Nasova buildings was gradually taken up by Fiji women and children, who came down to witness the ceremony.

At noon the vanguard of the Levuka and Bau galis, each headed by its representative, were seen marching round Nasova point, in Indian file, each man bearing an offering in his hand. Upon the leading men (principally Bau Chiefs) reaching the flagstaff, facing which the Governor sat, attended by his personal staff, they made the "tama," or reverential salutation, "dua woh! dua woh!" and, passing from mouth to mouth along the line of coming figures, the cry was lost in the distance. As each man laid down his offering he retired a little, or assisted to pile the yams in a heap.

With the last of the Indian file came a dozen picked men, dressed out in garlands and white tapa, chanting a meke, and dragging after them three large turtles. These having been laid by the heap of yams before the Governor, the chorus retired to their places on the grass, and made way for two men, each bearing a small model of a native bure.

These preparations being completed, the Vuni Valu appeared, dressed very simply in native costume; behind him came his mata, or herald, with a root of yagona, the symbol of friendship, peace, and submission. His sons Ratu Abel, and Ratu Joseph, together with Na Cagi Levu, Ratu Marika, Koroi Kavula, and other Chiefs accompanied him.

Approaching the steps the old Chief, who looked remarkably well, proceeded to camboro the magiti or tribute. He said, in very clear tones, and with his hand on the yagona, "This is our offering to you, sir, the Governor. We are rejoiced and happy

to-day; this is the offering to you, sir, the Governor, that Fiji may be happy." He then broke off a piece of yagona, and placed it in the Governor's hands.

His Excellency, according to Fijian formula, replied, "I accept this; may Fiji be happy!"

The Governor then invited the Vuni Valu and his Chiefs into the Government buildings, where a short interview was held, at the termination of which the Vuni Valu, having taken leave of his Excellency, addressed the assembled natives, who, in all, were about 500, and said:—

"Listen, men of Gali Vuka Levuka, and Gali Vuka Bau, the Governor has arrived in Fiji. I am happy to-day because I have seen him. The Chiefs of the provinces are not here. You only, the men of Ovalau and Bau, have seen the Governor; his arrival is for the good and prosperity of Fiji. You will have to obey the law. Law is a good thing; it is the refuge of every man. In law little men and big men are all alike. Every man is responsible for what he does and no more; Chiefs or other persons who are impudent will be punished. The Governor has come to do good, see that he is obeyed, for he represents the Queen. The aspiring man, what can he do now! the land is ruled by the Queen, here is her representative. We ruled the land formerly; well, we still remain in the land, but our rule is gone. It is given to the Queen. By-and-bye a day will be appointed for all the Chiefs to assemble here, and meet the Governor. To-day we only do so. I am happy because the Governor is here. These are my words to you, men of Bau and Levuka."

No. 15.

Crown Agents for the Colonies to Colonial Office.

Offices of the Crown Agents for the Colonies, Spring Gardens, London, S.W., September 30, 1875.

Sir,

IN compliance with the request contained in your letter of the 28th instant,* I transmit herewith a certificate stating that the sum of 40,000*l.* has been received by the Crown Agents for the Colonies from the Paymaster-General, and placed to the credit of the Government of Fiji.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. G. JULYAN.

Inclosure in No. 15.

Offices of the Crown Agents for the Colonies, Spring Gardens, London, S.W., September 30, 1875.

I CERTIFY that the Crown Agents for the Colonies have received from the Paymaster-General, and placed to the credit of the Government of Fiji in the books of this Department, the sum of 40,000*l.*, stated to be the amount granted by Parliament in its last Session in aid of the local revenue.

(Signed) P. G. JULYAN,
Crown Agent for the Colonies.

No. 16.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Downing Street, September 30, 1875.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 29th of June last,† on the subject of the amount of 40,000*l.* granted by Parliament in aid of the local revenue (which sum is to be repaid if Colonial funds should hereafter become available for the purpose), I have now to acquaint you that the amount in question has been paid over by my authority to the Crown Agents for the Colonies, with instructions to invest in Exchequer Bills such portion of it as may not be required at an early date.

2. I inclose a copy of the instructions which have been given to the Crown Agents,* and also a certificate from them (in original) that they have received the amount and

* Not printed.

† No. 32 of C. 1337 of 1875.

have placed it to the credit of your Government. On the receipt of this despatch, the amount should be carried in the Colonial accounts to the credit of the local revenue.

3. I have now to request that you will furnish me with a certificate, signed by the Colonial Treasurer, or other officer acting in that capacity, and countersigned by yourself, to the effect that "the sum of 40,000*l.*, being the amount of the Parliamentary grant of 1875-76 in aid of the revenue of Fiji, was duly carried to the credit of the Colonial revenue on the day of 1875." It is essential that this certificate should be forwarded to me without loss of time, for the satisfaction of the Comptroller and Auditor-General.

4. Should you have occasion to draw bills for any portion of this grant, such bills should be drawn on the Crown Agents for the Colonies; and an immediate advice of them should be sent on each occasion to the Agents, and also to this Department.

5. You will observe, from the instructions which have been addressed to the Agents, that their accounts for expenditure on behalf of your Government must be sent monthly, with the vouchers, to the Exchequer and Audit Department, copies of duplicates being forwarded to the Colony. The Treasury requires that, in the case of Colonies receiving grants in aid of local revenue, the Colonial accounts should undergo Imperial audit until a few years after the cessation of Imperial aid. It will, accordingly, be necessary that the Colonial accounts should, after undergoing a full examination in the Colony, be forwarded, with full vouchers, to the Exchequer and Audit Department. They should be made up monthly, and dispatched with all practicable expedition.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 17.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, October 6,* 1875.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 25th June,* reporting your arrival at Levuka in Her Majesty's ship "Pearl."

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARNON.

No. 18.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, October 8,* 1875.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 25th of June,† informing me of the circumstances in which you had decided to defer for a time the assumption of the Government of Fiji.

I trust that you may have found it possible to terminate at an early date the very exceptional arrangement which you have reported.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 19.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, October 8,* 1875.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 27th of June,‡ inclosing an extract from the "Fiji Times" of the 25th of that month, giving an account of your arrival in the Colony.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

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* No. 10. † No. 11. ‡ No. 12.

No. 20.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, October* 14, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 27th of June,* furnishing me with information in regard to the epidemic of measles which recently visited Fiji.

2. I approve of the steps which you reported you were about to take in sending Dr. Mayo to Taviuni, and Vanua Lavu, and in despatching the Chief Medical Officer with medicines, and a supply of food to Ono, and to other places.

3. I have already, in my despatch of the 23rd of August,† requested you to convey the acknowledgments of Her Majesty's Government to those who have rendered assistance to the natives in the trying circumstances attending this outbreak, and this should be done in the case of the planters mentioned in your present despatch.

4. I notice with much approval and satisfaction the testimony which you bear to the indefatigable exertions of Lieutenant Olive, whom I request that you will inform to this effect, and I shall cause his gallant conduct to be brought under the notice of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 21.

Colonial Office to Admiralty.

Sir, *Downing Street, October* 14, 1875.

I AM directed by the Earl of Carnarvon to transmit to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, an extract from a despatch from the Governor of the Fiji Islands,‡ in which he bears testimony to the energetic and disinterested services rendered by Lieutenant Olive, R.M., commanding the police force in the Colony, in connection with the recent outbreak of measles in those islands.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. R. MALCOLM.

No. 22.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.

Sir, *Downing Street, October* 14, 1875.

I AM directed by the Earl of Carnarvon to transmit to you, to be laid before the Earl of Derby, a copy of a despatch from Mr. Layard (administering the Government of Fiji),§ relating to the visit to the Colony of the brig "John Wesley," with missionaries proceeding to establish a station at New Britain, and to the proceedings of the missionaries with a view to obtain teachers to accompany them from among the native youths.

Mr. Layard appears to Lord Carnarvon to have very properly taken steps to explain to these natives the risks to which they would be subject in joining the mission; and his Lordship proposes, with the concurrence of the Earl of Derby, to approve the conduct of Mr. Layard, who appears to have been acting in reference to this matter on instructions received from the Foreign Office.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. R. MALCOLM.

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* No. 13. † No. 6. ‡ No. 13. § No. 9.

No. 23.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, October* 15, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 2nd of July,* reporting the formal acknowledgment by Thakombau, the ex-King of Fiji, of homage and submission to the Queen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 24.

Governor Sir A. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received October 16.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Ovalau, Fiji, July* 22, 1875.

BEFORE leaving England I was directed by a letter from your Lordship, bearing date the 4th of March, 1875,† to consider seriously whether, without any breach of faith, reductions could be made in the pensions of which Sir Hercules Robinson recommended the bestowal upon Thakombau and certain members of his family.

2. I have, it is scarcely necessary to say, complied with your Lordship's instructions; and have the honour to report that, as regards Thakombau's personal pension, I do not think any abatement could now be made without a most distinct moral breach of faith, if not a formal and technical one.

3. The cession was, no doubt, absolutely unconditional, but Thakombau was distinctly given to understand that the recommendations made with regard to his personal position would, almost as a matter of course, be adopted, and that it was intended to recommend that his pension should be 1,500*l.* a-year. He has been drawing a monthly allowance on account of this pension ever since; and it has, I imagine, never occurred to him that there was any doubt or question as to its amount.

4. Nor, considering the many claims upon him from the inferior members of his family, and the heavy personal liabilities which he has incurred and has to meet, do I think that the amount is an improperly large one. He may be of the most essential service to the Government, and from the moment he determined on cession he has, with characteristic shrewdness, shown a loyalty and thoroughness in his resolution to give entire effect to it, and to insure the thorough submission of others under his influence, which have been of incalculable value, and which merit substantial recognition. I will take care to give effect to the judicious precautions suggested by your Lordship with regard to any possible future misuse of these funds.

5. As regards the future provision for Andi Lydia, I agree in great measure with your Lordship; but I think it will be wiser to allow this question to remain unsettled until Thakombau's death. He may not, after all, predecease his wife. Should he do so, the circumstances of the time will much affect the amount and nature of the assistance which ought to be afforded to his widow.

6. In connection with this subject, I must observe that Thakombau is a much younger man than he was supposed to be by Sir Hercules Robinson. What can have induced Sir Hercules Robinson to fix on 1804 as the year of his birth I cannot imagine. All the known facts of his life and of Fijian history point to a much later date. Waterhouse ("King and People of Fiji," chap. i) states him to have been about five years old in 1822. This, of course, is mere assertion, but we know that when his father, Janoa, was expelled from Mbau in 1832, Thakombau was spared on account of his extreme youth, which certainly would not have been the case had he been born in 1804; whilst it is also on record that the plot by which he succeeded, in 1837, in restoring his father, owed its success to his having been thought too young for serious business, "a mere boy."

7. I lately saw Captain Heath, who was here with Sir Everard Home in 1850. I asked him how old Thakombau then seemed; his reply was, "Thirty, not more." And I observe that in all the missionary letters written on the death of Janoa in 1852 Thakombau is invariably spoken of as "the young King," "the young man," "the young Chief." I believe him to have been born between 1815 and 1818.

8. Your Lordship remarks that you are "not aware" that Andi Lydia "has personally acquired any prominent position." This is so far true that she had certainly

* No. 14 † No. 6 of C. 1337 of 1875.

taken no active part in politics, but her personal hereditary rank (for which Fijians have an almost superstitious respect) is higher than that of Thakombau himself, and she is consequently regarded by the people at large with extreme veneration and deference.

9. It will not, I think, be necessary to provide in any special manner for Thakombau's sons; two are now Governors of provinces. If they are deserving, there will be abundant openings for them in the public service. If they are not fit for employment, neither will they merit support by a public pension, unless, indeed, such unfitness arises from bodily or mental infirmity, in which case a special need will arise which will have to be specially considered.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR H. GORDON.

No. 25.

Governor Sir A. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received October 16.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Ovalau, Fiji, July 22, 1875.*

AMONG the subjects to which I am, by your Lordship's despatch of the 4th March, 1875,* directed to turn my early attention, that of the suitability, or the reverse, of Levuka as the site of the future capital of this Colony was by no means the least important. I need hardly say that the question is one which has been constantly in my thoughts since my arrival here; and it is not without some regret that I now report to your Lordship my decided conviction, after a month's close observation, that Levuka can never be made to meet, even moderately well, the requirements of such a position.

2. Of the other sites which have been suggested for a capital, I have as yet only seen Savu Savu. It is, in many respects, a less unfit situation than Levuka; but before attempting to institute any comparison between the claims of rival sites, it is my intention to visit all that have been seriously suggested.

3. I inclose a Memorandum on the subject of the capital, written by the Administrator, Mr. Layard. Mr. Layard, your Lordship will perceive, suggests that the seat of Government should be at Nandi. This is also the point recommended by Mr. Thurston.

4. I am not yet sufficiently recovered from my recent indisposition to state at any length, or I fear with such clearness as I could wish, the reasons which have led me to this conclusion. I have thought it right, however, to lose no time in informing your Lordship of the judgment which I formed, although obliged to defer to another (but I hope early) opportunity the statement of the arguments upon which it is based.

5. Some of the objections to Levuka as a capital will be found stated in Mr. Layard's Memorandum, but it must not be supposed that the reasons which render it unsuitable for the purpose are by any means exhaustively given in that paper.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR H. GORDON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 25.

Memorandum, for his Excellency Sir A. Gordon, on the most fitting Site for the Seat of Government.

THE most advantageous position for the site of the future seat of Government has been continually in my thoughts for the last eight months, and I have endeavoured, by conversations with every person likely to afford me information, to arrive at a just conclusion.

Of course self-interest guides most men in this Colony to their conclusions, and the results I now give are arrived at partly by balancing one man's opinion against another, and partly by my own observations.

The following are the spots that are considered most eligible, and between which I believe the choice lies:—

1. Ovalau. 2. Savu Savu Bay. 3. Suva. 4. Kandavu (Qualoa harbour). 5. The mouth of the Sovu River, inside Likuri Island or on the extreme south-west point of Viti Levu. Other places are suggested, but are quite unsuitable.

* No. 6 of C. 1337 of 1875.

I will first consider Ovalau, stating the advantages and disadvantages as I know them. The great claims that are advanced in its favour are: 1st. It is central. 2nd. It is in possession. 3rd. It has a good harbour.

As regards the first, if the Colony flourishes, we shall have a dozen centres; the centrality of Levuka means that the Custom-house is here: and the merchants desire, for their own ends, that this shall be the port of entry and export; but ask the planter if he desires this. Ask him if he likes to pay from 10*l.* to 15*l.* for the freight of his produce to Levuka to have it transshipped into other vessels there, and to pay the commission, costs, and charges of the merchant. Ask him how much this reduces his gains. If, as I hope, permanent resident officials (magistrates for example) are stationed at the principal centres of production, these men can act as sub-collectors of Customs, as we had them in Ceylon, and with the numberless good harbours along the coasts, vessels will go direct to the several ports and ship their cargoes. Centrality will then go for very little, and if we have steam communication internally, a few hours only is the difference between any two points.

(2.) It is in possession: this results from the mere accident that the old Tui Levuka encouraged white men to settle here, not from choice of it, as the most advantageous spot. And what is the possession of a few wooden, corrugated iron, or native-built houses? The first and third, unless constantly repaired, almost to renewal, do not, in this climate, last much over seven years. Corrugated iron corrodes in a remarkable way, as I found on examining my roof, blown off by the late hurricane; if new it might easily be removed; and is this slight "possession" to weigh against the future prosperity of the whole Colony? I trow not.

(3.) It has a good harbour: granted; but are there not others equally good, with better surroundings? A large sum of money will have to be expended in reclaiming foreshores and erecting wharves, &c. This may be also expected wherever the capital is placed.

Now let us consider the disadvantages of Levuka, and some of these apply to Port Kinnaird on the other side of the island, which some recommend as a much better port than Levuka. 1st. It is on a small island without any back country. The mountains rise precipitately from the beach, in most places leaving only a narrow strip of shingle, on which the town is built. There can be no extension of the town, except in a long straggling street of over a mile in length. The houses that are dotted on the rocks, as your Excellency sees them, will never, except at an enormous expense, be reached by a wheeled vehicle. This beach is not safe from the severe action of a severe storm. Mr. Thurston had told me that he himself witnessed a few years ago a brig go to pieces, about sixty yards from the present high-water mark, on the spot where the old "Fiji Gazette" office now stands. During the late hurricane and other storms, I carefully watched the set of the waves. Our hurricanes generally begin to the eastward and work round northerly to westward. At its great height last time (bar. 28.5) it swept past the town, and the waves ran from north to south; had the greatest force been from the eastward, every house on the low beach would have been swept away. This may happen at any moment as it happened when Mr. Thurston saw it. I say, then, that there is not space for a capital town if the Colony increases in prosperity and population.

2. Without back country a town is dependent on exterior sources for its supplies. We lately had thirty-five days bad weather consecutively, we were out of vegetables, fowls, eggs, &c. No boats ventured in, and for ten days or so the "Meteor," lying here, could not discharge or receive cargo. We had a very heavy sea on, the wind being from the eastward, driving over the reef. The harbour, therefore, may be beaten in its goodness, it is easy of ingress and egress, but not perfection inside. I look upon good back country and surrounding a chief town as a *sine quâ non*. Here you have not literally one single yard. You can have no development.

3. The temperature of this place is higher than most other places in the group. This is a serious consideration in connection with the health of an European community. At Suva it is usually from six to eight degrees cooler. At Nandi, on western side, though I have not the actual temperature recorded, I am told that two blankets are welcome at night during several months of the year. I have never seen it in Levuka lower than 78 degrees. In Suva, the accompanying return shows 72, 73, and 74 degrees frequently, and I hear the western side is much cooler. I attribute this high temperature in some measure to the masses of black rock towering up immediately behind the town. Eight or ten degrees make a vast difference in the tropics to the vigour of the European brain, as well as physique. It is well known that European ladies cannot stand the damp enervating heat of Levuka, but I do not hear

this complaint of other places. At Nandi, the planters told me they were often between the stilts of their ploughs from dawn till dark, and a healthier, ruddier set of men I rarely have seen. I hear, too, that the climate is so healthy that the deaths there from the measles have been less there than elsewhere.

4. Levuka is one of the rainiest places in Fiji, the great height of the mountains immediately behind it attract the clouds and hold them till they deposit their moisture. I should say that not more than three days in every month are free from rain, more or less. On the south-west coast the wet and dry seasons are more marked, and I am told from March to November, with occasional showers, the weather is dry.

5. Want of good building stone: I have never seen any good building stone on the island. If there is, I don't know of it.

6. I think it will be conceded that the great civilizers of a country are roads. Here one might be made round the island, but "*cui bono?*" it would open up little or no country, and simply end where it began. If, on the other hand, the capital were on one of the big islands, every mile of road would open up the country and advance civilization and Christianity into the heart of the mountain districts. I look for the day when these latter will produce vast crops of coffee, which will need roads to the seaward and a port of export; this can never be on Ovalau.

7. As a port of call for the mail steamers: Though, as I have repeatedly expressed in my despatches, this harbour is sufficient for them, and the internal dangers of the group might be much lessened, and are much exaggerated, still there is a strong prejudice against the place, and some of the reasons would equally apply to Savu Savu and Suva. If a suitable harbour could be found on the south-western coast, one objection would be removed—coming through the group would be avoided, and the route taken outside the Yasawas, free of everything. It is of vital importance that our communication should be regular and direct, and the steamers calling at the seat of Government would place us a month earlier in communication with Sydney and other Colonies generally.

Savu Savu Bay may next be considered. I have not been there, but have been told that the back country is not good. The climate is better than at Levuka. The bay is a fine one. As a port it is thought it would be useful to Taviuni, the most fertile island of the Colony, but unfortunately without good anchorage; but I think when once the produce is placed on board our small craft for transport, a difference of forty miles is little heeded. The Taviuni men will want the vessels to come direct to their shores, and effect it somehow.

Savu Savu would be objectionable to the mail steamers, as taking them too much out of their course, to say nothing of coming through the group.

Suva comes next in my list. It possesses many advantages, but I have lately heard that the bay is not so good as it looks. This is a question for the Marine Surveyor to answer. It is on the big island, not far from its chief river, the Rewa, and a road inland, about eight or nine miles long, would cut one of its tributaries (the "Waimanu") or reach the main river itself by passing round the head of the tributary. The bay may be approached fairly enough by the Kandavu passage. The mail steamers would have to go through the group or double back considerably. It has a much finer climate than Levuka, as the annexed tabulated statement for one year will show. It is rainy, but not to the extent of Levuka. There is a good site for a large town, but the immediate back country is not good. There are vast flats to the east of it that will one day be available; to the westward the land seemed to me too ridgy, and covered with mangroves, but I was told that across the bay there was abundance of fine land. Good building-stone is to be found in the neighbourhood. There is a boat or small-craft passage, inside the reefs, to the mouth of the Rewa River, in one direction, and down the coast, in another, a nice little river runs into the head of the bay. Roads inland from this would not open up such good country as roads inland from the west coast. Nevertheless, with all this, I consider it preferable to Levuka, if the bay is sufficient for the probable requirements of the Colonial and foreign traffic.

4. Kandavu, the port being Gualoa Bay. This is a most magnificent harbour. Captain Nares surveyed most of it in September last, and informed me that in places a line-of-battle ship could lie with her sides to the shore, and a plank for a gangway. The entrance is, however, bad, and I am told not available by night. This would be an objection to mail steamers, and a serious one, causing great detention. The Marine Surveyor can report best on this, and the prospect of improving it, if necessary, but many of the objections to Levuka apply equally to this site. There is no place for a town, the mountains rise too abruptly from the shore, and there is no available back

country. The island, though large, is too mountainous. Of the climate I know little. There is building-stone, but not so good as in other places.

There remains then for consideration the coast line from Likuri Island towards Nandi. If sufficient anchorage could be found anywhere along here, this, in my opinion, would be the spot best suited for a town, which should be the capital of the group. It has a splendid climate, better suited for European constitutions than any other in the Colony, except, perhaps, the mountains. It possesses a splendid back country. Large numbers of cattle and horses could be reared there, and the experiment has been tried. Farms for the supply of a large number of city dwellings, on which Europeans (white labour) could be employed. Roads opening up the interior would open up country for these, and be the means of bringing the mountaineers in constant communication with the white man and his hills under the cultivation of coffee. Many think that the chief sugar districts will eventually be found in this district, in consequence of the steadiness of its climate and the pronounced character of its dry and rainy seasons. Many fine level sites for towns could be selected, with many suburbs for the bungalows of the wealthier classes. There is splendid river stone in abundance. Some fine rivers water it, beginning at the Sinatogue, on the one hand, and the Nandi on the other. The harbour at Likuri is smaller than it looks on the chart, but there are two fine passages (Navulo and between Perry and Palmer Islands, besides others not so good) which lead to safe anchorages along the coast. It appears, moreover, that the land is Government land or in the possession of the natives.

The mail steamers touching here would have a fine landfall. Mount Pickering is visible eighty miles out to sea, and lighthouses on Perry and Palmer Islands would render all safe at night. A couple of hours' steaming or so would take them clear of the Yasawas, with no danger between them and San Francisco. For the labour traffic three days' run with the prevailing wind takes vessels to the New Hebrides. It is far easier for them to go there than to reach Levuka!! With steam communication in the group, any of the islands may be reached within a few hours.

If Levuka is such a very eligible commercial centre, it will hold its own as a Fijian "Liverpool" to a Fijian "London," but I look forward to the day when we shall have ports and Custom-houses at Savu Savu, Taviuni, Mathuata, Loma Loma, Savu, and other places where there are centres of population and industry. Let the capital, then, be selected with an eye to the future, the greatest good of the whole group, the best health of those who will have to dwell in it, to whom a sound mind in a sound body will be a blessing, not alone to themselves, but those they govern; the opening up of a valuable country; the introduction of Christianity and civilization to the great mass of these waters. I don't ask your Excellency to see with my eyes, but to go and see for yourself before any money is laid out here in Levuka; take the "Pearl," whose noble, clear-judging Commodore knows every spot in the group, and can foot it over the hills with you. See these places and judge for yourself. Take a practical land surveyor, as well as the marine surveyor, and I think he will be of much assistance. Your Excellency will see I have written this *currente calamo*. I have prepared no draft, so your Excellency must excuse tautology and the errors of rapid writing; it is merely a sketch of the thoughts I have revolved in my mind for many months—the result of my own observations and the conversations with others; such as they are, they are at your Excellency's service.

(Signed) E. L. LAYARD.

Levuka, June 27, 1875.

No. 26.

Admiralty to Colonial Office.

Sir, *Admiralty, October* 23, 1875.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, a despatch received from the late Commodore Goodenough, dated at Nasova, Fiji, on 10th July last, relative to the introduction of measles into Fiji by Her Majesty's ship "Dido."

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 26.

Sir, *"Pearl," Nasova, Fiji, July* 10, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to request you will inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that his Excellency the Governor of Fiji having informed me that his Honour the Administrator of the Government of that Colony had reported that measles had been introduced into Fiji by Her Majesty's ship "Dido," I ordered Captain Chapman to report to me on all the circumstances of his arrival at Levuka, with Cakobau and his sons, from Sydney; and I now inclose, for their Lordship's information, copies of the whole correspondence which has taken place on the subject, from which it appears that no one treated the matter sufficiently seriously, and that every one was indisposed to court or to impose the restrictions of a quarantine.

2. Those on whom most responsibility lies in the matter should certainly be old residents in the South Seas, who should have been aware of the fatal effect of the first introduction of measles among a population previously unvisited by the disease. In the island of Marè, Loyalty Group, about one-fifth of the population died of measles in 1860, and other islands in the South Seas have suffered in like proportion.

3. I fear that from one-third to one-fourth of the population of Fiji—25,000 to 30,000—have died from this visitation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAMES G. GOODENOUGH,

Captain and Commodore 2nd Class, Commanding Australian Station.

To the Secretary of the Admiralty.

Inclosure 2 in No. 26.

Sir, *Sydney, June* 1, 1875.

IN compliance with a request made by Mr. E. L. Layard, Acting Administrator of the Government of Fiji, I have the honour to transmit to you the enclosed copies of two despatches received from that gentleman.

I have, &c.

To Commodore Goodenough, &c. &c. &c. (Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 26.

Sir, *Government House, Fiji, February* 25, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the measles, so unfortunately introduced into this Colony by the Vunivalu and his sons on their return from Sydney, in Her Majesty's ship "Dido," have spread to an alarming extent, in spite of every precaution we have been able to take since it first broke out.

2. I have to deplore the loss of Ratu Savanatha, one of the ablest, most intelligent, and amiable of the native Chiefs, One who thoroughly appreciated the good that might be derived from the introduction of English rule, and understood our position here, as exemplified in his speech to the Kail Tholos at Navuso, reported to your Excellency in a previous despatch. His loss, as a trusted servant of the Government, cannot be too much deplored at this moment.

3. As the "Fiji Times" has published an article on the introduction of the disease, and endeavours to throw the blame on the Colonial Secretary, I deem it my duty to acquaint your Excellency with the circumstances under which the Vunivalu and his sons were allowed to land without those precautions which, I now see too late, should have been taken, of the necessity of which I was unaware.

4. Her Majesty's ship "Dido" arrived here on the 12th January, 1875. She came in as usual, without any yellow flag flying indicative of having an infectious disease on board. The moment she anchored, I, in company with the Colonial Secretary and my son, the Vice-Consul, boarded her from our own boat, with a native crew, who also came freely on board and mingled with the other natives, without any attempt being made to restrain either us or them. Her own boats were also immediately put in the water, and almost immediately communicated with the shore.

5. Captain Chapman shook hands with me, and told me the Doctor had something to tell me. We went into his cabin, and there found the Vunivalu, with whom we shook hands, as we did with Ratus, Timothy, and Joseph, and the other natives. Dr. Goodman

took me aside and informed me that Ratus, Timothy, and Joseph had measles, and one of them also had venereal disease.

6. I did not look upon the information, from the way it was given, as a warning or a caution, or in fact as an "official communication," but just as a "something" I should know. I was more shocked to hear of the venereal disease than of the other, of which I thought little; but I said, "Cannot you keep them on board until we get some place to put them in?" Dr. Goodman said, hesitatingly, "No, they had no means of doing so," and added, "they were now quite well, and had been so for some days."

The conversation now became general, and the thing was treated as a joke; no caution was given me or the Colonial Secretary of the danger of infection. Other shore boats and canoes had now come with Europeans and natives, who were allowed free access to the ship, and their own boat went ashore. Before I left the ship, Ratus, Timothy, and Joseph and others had gone ashore in their own boats. I confess I had no idea of any danger. I have never yet been in a position to witness similar results from the disease, and not being a medical man could not be expected to know the probable effects of allowing these people reported well for some days to go ashore.

7. That Dr. Goodman could not think seriously of the disease is shown in the fact, that beyond the mere report of the existence of it, he never advised me to take any precautions—never suggested any—allowed everybody to communicate freely with the ship—allowed the passengers to go ashore without any remonstrance—and finally, has allowed the embarkation of 100 Polynesians in her to return to their homes.

8. If the seeds of the disease are carried by them to the Polynesian Islands, the effects will be most disastrous amongst the natives. I have just stayed the shipment of 150 per "Lœlia," with whose owner I had all but completed a most advantageous agreement, inasmuch as he would not have brought labour back, desiring to proceed to the Colonies for some repairs to his vessel. I also took upon myself to refuse to allow a vessel to clear for Samoa, with native passengers on board; and on their being disembarked, only granted clearance to the vessel on her receiving a clean bill of health from the medical officer, and entering into a bond to approach Samoa with the yellow flag flying, and not to communicate with the shore until an official report had been made to the British Consul (to whom I also wrote very strongly in a private letter), and she had been inspected by him and pronounced clean.

9. I have thus done all I can to prevent it spreading to other groups of islands, but to stay its progress here is impossible—it is everywhere. The natives will not do what they are told, but will expose themselves to cold and wet,—to allay the feverishness, some actually creep away at night from the guard we have stationed over them, and go and lie down in the sea or creeks; this brings on dysentery and congestion of the lungs, of which Ratu Savanatha died. We have published and distributed plain directions for its treatment, but I regret to say some evilly-disposed white persons have told the natives not to take our medicines, as they were only meant to augment the disease, which had been purposely introduced to enable us to kill them and get their lands.

10. I inclose statements by my son and the Colonial Secretary as to what occurred on board Her Majesty's ship "Dido," and their impression of the whole affair.

11. Since the above was written, I have learnt that the steamer "Wentworth,"* which arrived here from Sydney, *vid* New Caledonia, had the measles on board, and that during the voyage a child of a Mr. Tarte, of Taviuni, and its native nurse, died from the effects of it. Mrs. Tarte took her surviving child to the house of a Mr. Moore of this town, and all his children were attacked by it. This has been kept as quiet as possible, and the introduction of the disease thrown upon the shoulders of myself and the Colonial Secretary.

12. Yesterday, in Council, I appointed Mr. Cruikshank (the Medical Officer), Health Officer for the Town, and Captain Hedstrom (the Harbour Master), Assistant Health Officer, to board all vessels entering the port and enforce the Quarantine Regulations of New South Wales.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. L. LAYARD.

His Excellency Sir Hercules Robinson, G.C.M.G.,
Governor of New South Wales and Fiji.

P.S.—I have discovered that the "Western Star," also from Sydney, had the measles on board on her arrival, and singularly enough communicated it, through a son of a Mr. Bucknell, to another son of a Mr. G. Moore, while at Suva.

Attempts are being made to hush up this case also by interested parties.

* Boarded by "Dido," January 26, 1875.

I inclose copies of a notice we have caused to be printed and published, and which the Assistant Health Officer will take with him to all vessels entering the port.

E. L. L.

February 26, 1875.

Inclosure 4 in No. 26

Memorandum for his Honour.

REFERRING to the arrival of Her Majesty's ship "Dido," with Cakoban and his sons on board, and the introduction by them of the measles into this Colony, I have the honour to state:—

That upon arrival of Her Majesty's ship "Dido" (12th January), I accompanied His Honour the Administrator on board, and together with Mr. Leo Layard ascended the side as soon as the side-ladder was secured. His Honour, upon reaching the deck, walked aft to the cabin with Captain Chapman; I stood for a few minutes in the gangway chatting with Lieutenants Ducat and (I believe) Knox. By them I was informed that the ex-King and his sons were "all right," but that Timothy and Joseph had contracted the venereal. I then went aft and shook hands with Thakombau, who almost at once told me the same thing, and called my attention to the son's lean condition. Joseph told me they were well excepting a slight cough. His Honour and Dr. Goodman were conversing upon a sofa near me, and I heard the word "measles," and most certainly the word "convalescent," but did not pay attention to nor join in the conversation at that time. Subsequently I did clearly understand that some of the natives had had the measles, and also had understood that the people were convalescent, and that they must go on shore. Thakombau was asked, within ten minutes of our going on board, whether he would send for his large canoe, or whether he would land in one of the "Dido's" boats. He said in a boat, and the first or second cutter being lowered, he, his people, and a quantity of baggage, were at once landed at Draimba village.

My opinion is that neither Captain Chapman nor Dr. Goodman thought there was any danger in their landing, and certainly none was ever hinted. Prior to the landing of Thakombau, my boat's crew had been freely admitted on board, and had mingled with Thakombau's servants.

Had any conviction existed in the mind of the Doctor as to the probable, and we now know certain, effects of this unhappy landing, surely some very distinct caution, and some unmistakeable recommendation, would have been made. As none such was, to the best of my knowledge and belief, ever made, and as the ex-King was landed almost as soon as the ship's anchor was down, and as natives from the shore were unhesitatingly admitted to instant communication with the ex-King and party, I can only conclude that the ordinary caution and warning given, when sickness prevails on ship board, was not considered at all necessary in this instance.

I regret to say that some malevolent person or persons have circulated a rumour among the native population that the introduction of the epidemic has been intentional on the part of the Government; and the "Fiji Times," which has lately taken to printing mischievous sentences in the Fijian language, refers to it as a part of my native policy. As to the former, I do not find that the natives believe it, though at this moment they are certainly open to doubts; the latter I treat with profound comtempt, though I think it will become necessary for the Government to consider whether a journal shall be permitted to continue a longer career of personal and party abuse and attack, in which it does not hesitate to insinuate ideas of a most dangerous tendency, in order to gratify the disappointed and cavilling portion of this community.

(Signed) JOHN B. THURSTON, *Colonial Secretary.*

February 26, 1875.

Inclosure 5 in No. 26.

Memorandum.

Levuka, February 26, 1875.

WITH regard to your request that I should put in writing what took place place on board of Her Majesty's ship "Dido" upon her arrival in this port, from Sydney I can state—

1. That the "Dido" entered the Port of Levuka without any plague flag flying.

2. That the "Dido's" boats were lowered at the same time as the anchor, and at once communicated with the shore.

3. That no impediment was offered to our native crew from the Government boat mixing with their friends on board.

4. When we were on board Dr. Goodman told you that "Ratu Timothy," son of the ex-King, had the measles, and another native also; you at once requested him to keep these infected persons on board until you could take measures to have them kept in strict isolation.

He replied that they could not be kept on board, that they were convalescent, and that there was no danger of infection, and treated the whole matter as a joke.

5. That very shortly after the "Dido" had anchored, the infected persons, with their personal effects and native servants, were put into the launch and landed at the ex-King's residence in the native town of "Draimba."

(Signed) LEO. LAYARD, *Vice-Consul for Tonga.*

His Honour E. L. Layard,
Administrator, &c., &c., &c.

Inclosure 6 in No. 26.

Sir, *Government House, Fiji, April* 24, 1875.

THE Honourable the Colonial Secretary having brought to my notice the accompanying paragraphs taken from the "New Zealand Herald," by a Memorandum dated the 23rd instant, copy of which is hereunto annexed, I have the honour to request that your Excellency will be good enough to communicate the contents of my despatch of the 25th February last, together with this, to the Commodore Commanding on the Australian Station, and to inform him that I utterly deny that any warning or caution against allowing the Vani Valu and other natives to land was ever given either to me or the Colonial Secretary; but that when I myself suggested that they should be retained on board for a time, the surgeon of Her Majesty's ship "Dido" informed me it could not be done.

2. The natives were allowed to land, and others to board the ship and communicate with them without any reference to me, and without my knowledge; and if Dr. Goodman was quite aware of the danger of the disease spreading among the natives, I can only reiterate that he never communicated that knowledge to me, or took any pains to prevent the calamity.

I have, &c
(Signed) E. L. LAYARD, *Administrator.*

To his Excellency Sir Hercules G. R. Robinson, G.C.M.G.,
Governor of New South Wales and Fiji.

Inclosure 7 in No. 26.

FIRST extract from "New Zealand Herald" of 5th April, 1875, gives a similar account of the introduction of the measles as that contained in Mr. Layard's despatch of the 25th February.

The following extract taken from a private letter appeared in yesterday's* issue regarding the spread of measles in Fiji:—

"The Surgeon of the 'Dido' did not consider, from the time that had elapsed, there was the least danger of contagion. We are now in a position to state that there is not the slightest foundation for this statement. The Surgeon of the 'Dido' was quite aware of the danger of the disease spreading among the natives, and the Administrator of the Government and the Colonial Secretary were duly informed of the existence of measles on board before any one was allowed to land from the ship. The Surgeon of the 'Dido,' therefore, very reasonably considers that he is in no way responsible in the matter."

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* "New Zealand Herald," April 6, 1875.

Inclosure 8 in No. 26.

Memorandum for his Honour.

THE Colonial Secretary begs leave to forward for the perusal of his Honour two Auckland newspapers of the 5th and 6th instant. In the first appears a leader on the present epidemic in Fiji; and in the second a paragraph inserted (so the Colonial Secretary is informed) at the instance of Dr. Goodman, of Her Majesty's ship "Dido."

The Colonial Secretary has hitherto thought that Dr. Goodman was not alive to the danger of landing the ex-King and his party, and hence has remained silent on the subject. The paragraph referred to moves him to speak.

Among all the political enemies the Colonial Secretary has had, and still meets in in Fiji, none ever accused him of shirking responsibility, but rather the reverse.

With reference to the unfortunate introduction of measles into this country, the Colonial Secretary courts the fullest enquiry as to the blame attaching itself to him, or, if he may say so, to this Government.

For himself, he will not seek to evade any blame or responsibility consequent on such enquiry, but, in the meantime, he gives to the paragraph under notice a most emphatic and absolute denial, and will be glad by His Honour so stating in any official correspondence that may arise on the matter.

(Signed) J. B. THURSTON.

April 23, 1875.

Inclosure 9 in No. 26.

Sir, "*Dido*," *at Auckland, June* 26, 1875.

IN compliance with the orders contained in your Memoranda dated the 31st ultimo and 4th instant, to report fully with reference to the supposed introduction of measles in Fiji by Her Majesty's ship under my command:

I have the honour to inclose Reports from the Staff Surgeon and other officers of the ship, who were present on deck on the arrival of the "Dido" at Levuka, and had a knowledge of what steps were taken by me to warn the Colonial authorities that there was a danger in landing the persons who had been suffering from an infectious disease.

2. In answering seriatim the statements and accusations contained in the inclosures which accompanied your Memoranda, and made by Mr. Layard, the then Administrator, Mr. Thurston, the Colonial Secretary, and Mr. Leo Layard, Vice-Consul for Tonga, I feel confident that I shall be able to acquit myself of all blame of having failed to take every necessary precaution to prevent a spread of the measles, and also to convince you those statements are wild and unfounded, and convey an erroneous impression.

3. Referring to the statements made in paragraph 4 of Mr. Layard's Report, dated 25th February, and in refutation of it, I beg to call your attention to Sub-Lieutenant Bremer's letter (inclosure No. 12), where he states that I hailed and informed Mr. Layard that we had the measles on board; also in Dr. Goodman's Report (inclosure No. 10), it is plainly shown that immediately Mr. Layard came over the side, I told him (thereby warning him by so doing) that the Doctor had something to tell him.

Lieutenant Vesey Knox also states (inclosure No. 11) that he informed the Colonial Secretary on the quarter deck, and yet, after these repeated warnings, no notice was taken by the authorities, who treated the matter lightly, as will be seen by my coxswain's statement (inclosure No. 13), and consequently no forcible restraint was attempted on my part to prevent their further entry into the ship.

4. It will also be seen that the boats of the ship did not "almost immediately" communicate with the shore, the first one conveying the ex-King to his home nearly an hour after our arrival, and which boat the Colonial Secretary asked for, as Thakombau wished to land in a ship's boat in preference to his canoe, which at first they had intended sending for.

The boats were lowered of course at the same time as anchoring, but had no communication with the shore, until I considered everything was settled by the Colonial authorities.

The first boat, I believe, was one from the shore, which conveyed Mr. Milne, the the interpreter, and who had received permission to land from Mr. Layard.

5. With reference to paragraph 6, I am not aware of the manner in which Mr. Layard thinks an official communication should be given, but I am of opinion that, after my informing Mr. Layard immediately he came on board that the Doctor had something

to tell him, and that the Doctor took him aside and spoke to him on the subject immediately after his entry into the cabin, that the communication should have been looked upon and considered as most decidedly "official"; and had Mr. Layard not been in such a violent hurry to come on board (the anchor being hardly "let go" before he was alongside), Dr. Goodman, who was waiting in the gangway for the purpose by my orders, would have communicated with him on his pier, instead of on board the ship.

6. With respect to Mr. Layard's statement that "Dr. Goodman said they could not be retained on board as there was no place to put them," I imagine there must be some mistake, as the captain and not the surgeon of a vessel is the person to decide in the matter, and no reference was made to me; moreover, the cabin built expressly for these passengers was still standing; besides this, the Administrator of the Colony had it in his power to direct that no one be landed.

7. Mr. Layard again repeats, in the same paragraph, that no warning was given of the danger of infection. Surely, after being told by the Medical Officer there was an infectious disease on board, he must actually have been aware there was a certain amount of danger, and that he was aware, as also his son, I have pointed out in paragraph 13 of this letter.

8. In paragraph 7, complaint is made that Dr. Goodman never advised him to take precautions, &c.; Mr. Layard apparently forgetting that Dr. Goodman's duty was to report the matter only, and that all precautions after that should emanate from the Governor of the Colony, as suggested by the Colonial Surgeon or other advisers.

9. With respect to the conveying 100 natives of the New Hebrides to their homes, I beg to point out they were embarked by your orders, and at the written request of Mr. Layard, then the Administrator, dated the 25th January. Copies of this request I forwarded to you in my letters of 24th and 28th February; and that at the time of embarkation, the vessel had been nearly a month in Fiji, and Mr. Layard, Mr. Thurston, and native Chiefs had been during that time living on board for several days, having been conveyed to the Mathuata coast and back; and if there had been an impropriety in embarking them, I consider the blame lays entirely with the authorities on shore in not stopping it.

10. In paragraphs 8 and 9, it appears that Mr. Layard no longer looks on the measles as a joke, as himself and son appear to have viewed the whole proceeding, on the day of arrival in Fiji, but is now stirring himself to carry out those sanitary regulations which are conducted and supposed to be necessary in other Colonies.

11. With reference to Mr. Layard's despatch dated 24th April, in which he utterly denies having received any warning or caution, I beg to remark that, if the Administrator of a Colony, when he is informed that an infectious disease is on board a vessel in his waters, chooses to treat the matter as a joke, and allows convalescent patients to land, after being told by the medical officer of the existence of the disease, he should not be surprised to find the joke become serious, and that a calamity ensues which he took no pains to prevent, and not try to lay the blame on others who had done their duty.

12. Respecting the notation calling attention to the paragraph in the Auckland paper, which has brought forth such angry denials from Mr. Thurston and Mr. Layard, it appears that when Dr. Goodman saw his name so freely used in the previous day's papers, he called and requested the proprietor to give him the name of the writer (now rumoured to be Mr. Thurston), which was refused. Dr. Goodman then informed the proprietor, as shown in the paragraph referred to.

13. I would beg to draw your attention to Mr. Leo Layard's letter, whose statements differ essentially from those made by Mr. Layard and Mr. Thurston.

The Vice-Consul for Tonga states that Mr. Layard, on being told by the Doctor of the measles, "at once requested him to keep the infected persons on board until you could take measures to have them kept in strict isolation." If this be so, the only inference to be drawn is, that Mr. Layard understood he was cautioned, and was fully alive to the fact that there was danger attached to allowing the patients to go on shore; and also that the Vice-Consul himself must have been aware of it, notwithstanding the joke which appears to have been so prevalent.

14. There has not been one single case of measles amongst the ship's company of the "Dido," though we have 30 boys under 18 years of age on board, who joined the ship three weeks only before Thakombau was embarked.

15. In conclusion, I wish to point out that the "Dido" arrived at Levuka on the 12th of January, and known to have landed convalescent patients; that Rata Joseph was attacked with measles a day or two after, and was allowed free communication with all his friends, having been found by Dr. Goodman in Thakombau's house, in the native village, surrounded by natives; and also that the steam-ship "Wentworth," which arrived on the 26th January from Sydney, a place known to be infected by measles, and

yet was allowed to land passengers without apparently the slightest inquiry being made by the Colonial authorities, as it now appears there had been a death on board from this disease; and yet Mr. Layard complains of the "introduction of the disease being thrown on his and the Colonial Secretary's shoulders," bearing in mind at the same time ther was a medical resident practitioner, paid by the Government, and therefore easily calle- upon for advice; remembering also the Colony had been in existence three months.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WM. C. CHAPMAN, *Captain*.

Commodore James G. Goodenough,
Senior Officer.

Inclosure 10 in No. 26.

Sir, *"Dido," Russell, New Zealand, June* 17, 1875.

IN compliance with your memorandum directing me to report fully on the supposed introduction of measles into Fiji by this ship, I have the honour to inform you that previous to the ship's arrival in the harbour of Levuka, I informed you that it would not be judicious to land the passengers without first communicating with the authorities on shore. You then asked me if they would be likely to put the ship in quarantine on account of measles; I replied, "Not usually, as it depended altogether on the authorities of the place." You then told me that you would not anchor on arrival, but lower a boat and send me on shore to communicate with his Honour the Administrator. I was ready in the gangway to proceed on shore for this purpose, when you said, "You need not go; Mr. Layard is coming off." On his Honour coming over the side, you said to him, "The Doctor has something to say to you." His Honour walked aft into the cabin, where I followed him, and told him we had measles on board, and that Ratu Timothy and one of Thakombau's servants had suffered from that disease on the way from Sydney. After a short conversation, Mr. Layard turned to the table where some letters were being sorted, when I walked across the cabin to where Mr. Thurston was sitting, and said, "I have just been telling his Honour we have measles on board." I waited for a few minutes and then left the cabin. A short time afterwards Mr. Milne, the King's Secretary, informed me on deck that he was going on shore. I replied, "I have nothing to do with preventing you," or words to that effect. I had, previously to the arrival of the ship, told Mr. Milne and others that the vessel would most likely be placed in quarantine. I also told Mr. Milne that the clothing, &c., used by the sick ought to be destroyed, or at least baked in an oven. I also told Ratu Timothy and Ratu Joseph the same. I likewise informed Ratu Abel, when I met him on shore next day, that it would be dangerous to bring his family from Bau, as they would most likely catch the disease.

I did not tell the Administrator that the people could not be kept in the ship. After the return of the ship from the Mathaala Coast, when the subject was discussed on board, Mr. Layard stated that I had done so. I then told him that he must be mistaken, as I had not said so, and that it would be absurd that I should have made such a statement without having previously consulted Captain Chapman. I also told him that we had the same accommodation for the people as when we left Sydney, and that they were then convalescent. Mr. Thurston was present when this conversation took place, and said the thing had not been officially reported in writing, from which observation I conclude that that was his reason for not taking action in the matter. Mr. Leopold Layard was also present on this occasion, and I am under the impression that in his written statement of the 25th February, 1875, he refers to this conversation, and not to that which took place in the cabin on the arrival ot the ship from Sydney, as I do not think he could have heard it.

At the conversation which took place on the return from Mathaala, Mr. Leopold Layard did not mention his having overheard the conversation between his father and myself which he alludes to in his written statement

In compliance with the Commodore's memorandum calling for an account of the cases of measles on board, I beg to state that on January 6th, at sea, Ratu Timothy was attacked with measles; on the 7th, one of the Fijian servants was found to be suffering from the disease. It was of a very mild type, and both were convalescent on January 12th, the date of the ship's arrival in Fiji, and were discharged to the shore on that date. No other cases occurred at any time on board, either among passengers or ship's company. There was no communication between the ship's company and the patients, the latter being confined to a house built for them on deck. All the articles of ship's bedding, &c., used by the patients were destroyed according to your order. The disease was evidently

contracted at Sydney, where it was epidemic at the time of our leaving. The ship seemed quite free from the seeds of the disease, otherwise it would have probably spread amongst the ship's boys, thirty of these having been but recently received on board.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GODFREY GOODMAN,
Staff Surgeon.

Captain Chapman,
Her Majesty's ship "Dido."

Inclosure 11 in No. 26.

Sir, "*Dido*," *at sea*, *June* 22, 1875.

IN compliance with your memorandum of this day's date, directing me to report to you my knowledge of the circumstances that occurred on the arrival of Her Majesty's ship "Dido" in Levuka harbour, with reference to the supposed introduction of measles into Fiji by that vessel, I have the honour to inform you that, on the afternoon of the 12th January last, I was on the quarter-deck when his Honour the Administrator, his son, and the Honourable the Colonial Secretary came on board.

His Honour, after shaking hands with some of the officers, went with you to your cabin, the Colonial Secretary staying for a short time on the quarter-deck, Mr. Thurston must then have become aware that we had, or had had, measles on board, as, having shaken hands with him, almost the first words I said were to the effect that Thakombau's sons had, or were recovering from, the measles; Lieutenant Ducat, who was standing by, then making some remark, he pursued the conversation with that officer.

About half-an-hour after this I was standing at a port in the starboard gangway with Dr. Goodman; Mr. Milne, Private Secretary to Thakombau, was leaving the ship in a shore boat; I remarked jestingly to him that he ought to be kept in quarantine on account of the measles, or words to that effect, whereupon he replied that no one had tried to detain him on board, or suggested that he should remain; and on his addressing some words to Dr. Goodman on the subject, that officer replied that the matter was then altogether out of his hands.

With regard to a letter written by Mr. Leo Layard, in which he states that the "Dido's" boats at once communicated with the shore, I beg to inform you that no boat visited the shore previous to the landing of Thakombau and suite in one of the cutters. A boat was lowered when the vessel anchored, and sent ahead as usual for the purpose of squaring yards.

I have, &c.

(Signed) VESEY KNOX, *Lieutenant.*

Captain Chapman,
Her Majesty's ship "Dido."

Inclosure 12 in No. 26.

Sir, "*Dido*," *at sea*, *June* 22, 1875.

IN compliance with your Memorandum, directing me to state fully what steps were taken to prevent the introduction of measles into Levuka, I have the honour to state the following:—

I was on the bridge of Her Majesty's ship "Dido" on the afternoon of January 12; we were going into Levuka harbour. Shortly before entering the reef I heard Captain Chapman give an order that Dr. Goodman was to get ready to go on shore, and report to the authorities that we had the measles on board, and that no one was to leave the ship until he had returned.

Just before we anchored the Lieutenant-Commander of the "Beagle" came on board, and Captain Chapman asked him if he would allow his galley to land Dr. Goodman, who was then standing on the ladder, waiting for the boat that already had been called away to land him. Lieutenant Rendall said "Yes; certainly." But in the meantime a galley, manned by a native crew, had shoved off from the shore, containing his Honour the Administrator, Mr. Layard, his son, and the Honourable J. B. Thurston, Colonial Secretary. Captain Chapman hailed them, and told them we had measles on board, and he was on the point of sending Dr. Goodman on shore to acquaint him with the fact.

What the return answer was I did not hear, but his Honour Mr. Layard said something in an offhand way, and came alongside.

Whether communication was established with the shore I do not know. To the best

of my belief the first boat was the one that landed the Vuni Valu and his sui e, about an hour afterwards.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAMES GORDON BREMER,
Sub-Lieutenant.

Captain W. C. Chapman,
Her Majesty's ship "Dido."

Inclosure 13 in No. 26.

Statement of Robert Pother, Captain's Coxswain.

ON the 12th January, 1875, when the "Dido" anchored at Levuka, I was in the Captain's cabin.

Thakombau was sitting there. Mr. Layard and Mr. Thurston came off in Mr. Thurston's boat. After first speaking to the Captain and Doctor on the quarter-deck, they came into the cabin. The first words I heard Mr. Layard use in speaking to Mr. Thurston were, "Oh! it's only a child's complaint." Mr. Layard then went to Thakombau, and asked him how he enjoyed his trip to Sydney, and said he was sorry to see him so very seedy, and also to hear of the illness of his sons. He then said, "Oh! we will have you all right as soon as we can get you on shore. You can go in that boat we came off in." Mr. Thurston said he had made arrangements for that. The Captain said they could have the cutter. Mr. Milne, coming into the cabin and hearing this, said, "Oh! then there is nothing to stop me from going?" Mr. Layard said "No." Mr. Milne then went out of the cabin, and went on shore in a shore boat

(Signed) ROBERT POTHER,
Captain's Coxswain.

The above statement was made to me by Robert Pother, written in his presence, and then read to him before he attached his signature.

(Signed) REGINALD D. BRAY, *Assistant Paymaster.*
"*Dido*," *at Auckland, June* 27, 1875.

No. 27.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 25, 1875.

WITH reference to your letter of the 14th instant,* I am directed by the Earl of Derby to state to you, for the information of the Earl of Carnarvon, that his Lordship fully concurs in the proposed approval of Mr. Layard's conduct, as reported by him, in warning the Wesleyan native teachers who were proceeding to New Britain of the dangers and difficulties to which they were likely to be exposed.

A copy of the despatch from this Office, referred to by Mr. Layard, is inclosed for Lord Carnarvon's information.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT BOURKE.

Inclosure in No. 27.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 15, 1875.

WITH reference to your despatches of the 2nd, 3rd, and 7th of September, and to the despatch addressed to you on the 15th ultimo, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to state to you that his Lordship cannot give his consent to labourers being engaged to proceed to islands where there is no Consular Representative, and where there are, therefore, no means of seeing that they are properly treated. I am, at the same time, to observe to you that, since the cession of the Fiji Islands, the constituted authorities there must be left to deal with parties conveying natives from thence to Tongo or any other of the Friendly Islands. The question, also, of what is to be done with imported labourers who wish to remain in Fiji must now be decided by the Colonial authorities.

* No. 22.

You will be reimbursed the expenses you have incurred on account of native labourers when the accounts arrive.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT BOURKE.

E. L. Layard, Esq.,
Her Majesty's Consul, Fiji.

No. 28.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, October* 30, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Layard's despatch of the 15th of June,* relating to the visit to the Colony of the brig "John Wesley," with missionaries proceeding to establish a station at New Britain, and to the proceedings of the missionaries with the view of obtaining teachers to accompany them from among the native youths.

I request that you will convey to Mr. Layard my approval of the steps which he took to explain to these natives the risks to which they would render themselves liable by joining this Mission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 29.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, October* 30, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 22nd of July,† on the subject of the pension to be enjoyed by Thakombau, the ex-King of Fiji.

After reading your despatch, I am willing to accept your view and to leave matters on the footing which you desire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 30.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received November 2.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Ovalau, Fiji, August* 21, 1875.

IN my despatch of the 22nd ultimo,‡ I had the honour of expressing my opinion that Levuka was not a proper site for the capital of this Colony, but owing to indisposition I was unable to state at length my reasons for arriving at that conclusion.

2. Since that date I have called upon the chief medical officer, Dr. McGregor, and the medical officer for Vanua Levu and the windward island, Dr. Mayo, to report on the eligibility of Levuka as a site for a considerable town.

I requested them to report separately and without previous communication with each other. Copies of these Reports I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship, and your Lordship will perceive that they concur in considering Levuka to be entirely unsuited for the purpose in question.

3. The sanitary aspect of the question is fully dealt with by these gentlemen, who have pointed out the evils likely to arise from the confined site, low level, and imperfect water supply, and from the impossibility of, under these circumstances, establishing an efficient system of drainage.

It is, therefore, unneccessary for me to dwell on this branch of the subject.

4. The want of facilities for extension is to my mind absolutely fatal, and renders a consideration of other objections almost needless. I will, however, advert to some of a more general political nature.

5. The greater part of the land on which Levuka stands is claimed by the Wesleyan missionaries and two or three private individuals. But both the Wesleyan body and the individuals in question absolutely refuse to sell an acre of this land, and will only grant

* No. 9. † No. 24. ‡ No. 25.

leases of it for short periods. These claims will, I anticipate, be found indisputable by the Lands Commission. Ground might no doubt be obtained by legislative enactment for public purposes, but even in this case the compensation which must necessarily be awarded would amount to a sum which the Colony could ill afford, whilst private parties desirous of obtaining sites for building would remain absolutely in the power of the proprietors. Experience has amply shown that good and substantial houses will not be built on land not owned by the builders and in which they have but a temporary and brief interest.

6. The temperature is higher and the weather wetter at Levuka than in other parts of the group, and the dampness of the atmosphere is such that cargoes of maize, which, if sent direct from the drier localities in the western part of Viti Levu, are not unfrequently spoiled and rendered comparatively valueless by the even short detention here to which they are subjected on exportation from the Colony.

7. The harbour of Levuka, though fairly good, is not by any means a first rate one, and the "central" position, which is urged as its recommendation, is in point of fact a continual source of embarrassment and inconvenience. If, therefore, other sites more suitable in a sanitary point of view and equally convenient for commercial purposes can be found, I see no political reason whatever for the retention of the seat of Government at this place.

8. Those who desire Levuka to remain the capital themselves admit that it can only be extended by reclaiming land from the sea, and terracing the rocky mountain spurs by which it is backed. But such operations would involve a cost which, even if the Colony could meet it, would render the commencement of other public works urgently needed absolutely impossible, and would cripple every effort of the Administration for the general improvement of these islands.

9. The friends of Levuka point, indeed, to Hong Kong, but—not to dwell on the total difference of the two Colonies in a financial point of view—they forget that at Hong Kong the selection of the site of the City of Victoria was a matter not of choice but necessity, and that, had Great Britain possessed in the immediate vicinity of Hong Kong a large island equally well placed commercially, and abounding in level and open sites for a town, labour and money would certainly not have been uselessly expended in converting slopes of granite rock into building ground.

10. Before I leave this part of the subject I desire to call attention to the truth of two remarks made by Mr. Layard, and to express my entire concurrence in them. He is quite right in saying that the choice (if it can be so called) of Levuka as the site of a white settlement was not the result of a deliberate preference due to advantages which the place might be supposed to possess, but to pure accident. It was the nearest place to Bau (then the centre of affairs), at which a white settlement could be formed, and had white men then been permitted to live at Bau itself, I have little doubt that that place (utterly unfit as it is for such a purpose) would now be the capital of Fiji.

11. It is also the case that there are no really permanent buildings here, and that little would be lost by removal. Landowners in Ovalau would certainly suffer a depreciation in the value of their property, but I do not think that their interests should be allowed to outweigh those of the community at large.

12. The island of Viti Levu is so much more important than that of Vanu Levu, and its affairs will probably require for the next few years much more care and attention than those of the rest of the group. It is on its large rivers, the Rewa, the Singatoka, and the Ba, that the chief settlements of planters will be formed—it is the only island on which the native population still gives trouble and cause for anxiety, and it is, therefore, on it that he thinks that, I believe, the Government of the Colony should be located. If this be so, it is probable that the final choice will lie between Suva and Nandi, and, notwithstanding its fine harbour, Savu Savu will, from its being situated in Vanua Levu, be deemed unsuitable.

But this is a question which must await the examination by the Royal Engineers of the different sites proposed, and the report of the Admiralty Surveyor on the different harbours. That officer, I may remark, reports far more favourably of Suva than was supposed by Mr. Layard, in fact he writes and speaks of it in the highest terms of commendation.

13. Should either of these sites appear to these authorities as well as to myself and my Council unexceptionable, I should request your Lordship to authorize my at once taking the necessary steps for the removal of the seat of Government without a further reference home, which would involve a fresh delay of probably not much less than six months, if not longer.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. GORDON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 30.

Sir, *Levuka, Fiji, August* 19, 1875.

IN compliance with the instructions of his Excellency the Governor conveyed in your letter dated 12th August, 1875, I have the honour to present "my official Report as to the adequacy and fitness generally of Levuka as a site for a large town, or as a site for the future capital of the Colony."

The conclusion at which I have arrived, viz., that Levuka is not adapted as a site for a large town, and especially for the site of the capital, is based on the consideration of (1) the relative position of Levuka with regard to the principal islands of the Colony; (2) the general topography of Levuka and its neighbourhood; (3) the plan and arrangement of the present town; (4) its water supply; (5) its present and future sanitary condition. Each of these points will be reviewed in detail.

1. The only reason that occurs to me that might appear to render it desirable to encourage the formation of a town of such importance as the capital of the Colony on this island is, that it would be situated between the largest island of the group, Viti Levu on one side, and the two next largest, Vanua Levu and Taviuni, on the other side, which, at first sight, might seem advantageous, as affording readier access than any other site to the general hospital, public dispensary, and other official and commercial centres: but in practice such is not the case. Levuka is situated at too great a distance from these islands to be convenient for any of them, and such establishments as the general hospital, public dispensary, &c., must always remain here unserviceable for the general community, and operative merely for the inhabitants of Ovalau, for invalids, more especially of the labouring classes, who cannot provide for themselves in this respect, will not be brought from the large islands to be treated at Levuka.

This difficulty can best be obviated by having the capital and general hospital on the mainland, and a district hospital in charge of the medical officer of the Lau district.

Again, with regard to provisions for the supply of the capital in its present site, similar difficulties present themselves. This island is so small and mountainous, and its resources so insignificant, that, practically, all provisions would have to be brought from the other islands, whereas, were the capital built on one of the larger islands, a constant supply of fresh provisions would be always procurable, and the difference between fresh provisions and those only one or two days old is such, in a trophical climate, as to render this consideration of the highest importance.

Looked at from a commercial point of view, it does not appear to me to be of much importance where the capital is situated so far as exports are concerned, as regular inter-island steam communication is about to be established; but it is different with regard to imports. The mail steamers have never, and in virtue of the recent contract, will not call at Levuka. This must be a very great inconvenience to all parties, both public and private, and can be remedied only by having the capital at some place where the steamers can call. But so long as the mail steamers call at a remote island such as Kandavu, where their entry will not be under the supervision of a medical officer, they will be a constant source of danger to the Colony, as there will be a great risk of their introducing small-pox and other infectious and contagious diseases, and one has only to refer to the deplorable mortality due to the recent epidemic of measles to show how pernicious are the effects of zymotic diseases in a virgin population; it is only reasonable to infer that small-pox would be much more fatal than measles. The ends of commerce and health would jointly and separately be best served by having the capital on a good harbour on the mainland, and a port of entry at Vanua Levu, where there is a medical officer, and another at Levuka, where there will no doubt be a small town for some time; and as Levuka is the residence of the Assistant Health Officer, the three ports of entry would be under the supervision of the three medical officers respectively, and it would no longer be necessary to unship goods at Levuka intended for Viti Levu, Vanua Levu, &c.

2. On looking at the topography of Levuka and its neighbourhood one can see at a glance that if the Colony is to be properous, and the resources of these islands to be developed, the capital cannot be built at Levuka for want of space. The present town is built on a small piece of flat ground (that has been below water at no very remote date) formed by the divergence of two spurs of mountains that extend down to the beach, surrounding the town on three sides, leaving it exposed to the east, where it is washed by the sea. A few houses stand on the most accessible parts of the spur of the mountain on the north side of the town, but that on the south side is very precipitous. At a distance of about 300 yards from the beach these two mountain ridges approach each other and become connected to a lofty and precipitous mountain attaining an altitude from 1,500 to 2,000 feet. This arrangement of mountains surrounding the town except on the east side,

exercises a very unfavourable influence on the temperature of the town, an influence which must be very considerable consequent on the proximity, height, shape, and peculiar geological formation of the mountains. They are close to the town, and in many places composed of bare perpendicular cliffs of conglomerate. These not only prevent the access of cooling breezes that are very frequently enjoyed in other parts of the group, but the rocks absorb large quantities of heat whilst the sun is beating on them during the day, and, giving it out again at night, render Levuka, in the opinion of all the inhabitants, the hottest place in the Colony inhabited by whites.

This circumstance is of much importance of itself, but is of much more consequence when taken in connection with the consideration of the wet and level site of the town.

The flat ground on which the town stands is composed of shingles, mud, sand, and clay. Generally speaking, it is very level, and only slightly elevated above high-water mark. Where there are any hollows on the surface they are full of water, and many of these hollows are planted full of taro in the heart of the town, others are not planted, but produce a copious vegetation, which is allowed to decay where it grows. From the want of fall in the drains it would be impossible to dry these places satisfactorily. Not being competent to survey the site of the town, I cannot state its various levels with mathematical minuteness, but it is patent to the observation of every person that the open drains are not deep enough to dry many of the hollows.

Whilst the drains at their present depth are filled with shingle some distance from their mouths at each high tide, and in many places the water remains stagnant in them, the town cannot extend beyond the limits occupied by its present site, and can only become larger by filling up the hollows and taro beds; almost all the available sites for houses being already occupied, and that would involve the burying under ground of masses of decaying vegetable matter, the emanations from which could scarcely fail to occasion, sooner or later, calamitous sequences. The present houses are built on the most elevated spots of ground, and even some of them I have noticed standing over a pool of water, consequent on the level nature of the ground and its low elevation above sea level.

This impossibility of good drainage is already beginning to make itself felt, but were the town densely populated it is superfluous to state that it would be very prejudicial to the public health, and Levuka can become larger only by becoming more densely populated, as it is compressed by mountains and sea beyond the power of expansion.

It is also of great consequence to remember that the site of the town is exposed to another danger in consequence of it being so very little elevated above high-water mark, not nearly sufficiently elevated should there be a concurrence of some very simple natural phenomena in combination; thus, should a strong breeze blowing dead on shore, begin at a few hundred miles distant and work up steadily, blowing for a week or two, and should a spring tide occur at the end of that time while the wind still continued, I should be prepared to see a great part of the town inundated with salt water. I cannot state the exact number of inches between the level of the land and that of the water at high tide (and in some places it can be only a few inches), but that this is a real and serious danger is proved from experience, as a vessel a few years ago was driven into the town and wrecked at a spot several yards behind the first row of houses on the beach. Should there be an occurrence of a tidal wave the effect could not fail to be disastrous.

The plan and arrangement of the town are also such as would greatly interfere with its future development. The houses have been built in very many instances without regard to any order or regularity to suit the nature of the particular spot of ground, or in accordance with the caprice of the builder, so that great difficulty would be encountered in the formation of regular streets; the course of many of the drains is and would unavoidably remain crooked in consequence of turning round houses, which is dangerous to those houses, and greatly impairs the efficiency of the drains. There is also a decided tendency to use the houses close to the beach for commercial purposes, and as these houses are the healthiest of the whole town, it follows that dwelling houses proper are, and would always be, thrust back towards the low and damp ground next the foot of the mountains, a necessary result of the want of space.

The houses are of wood, and, as a rule, are very unsubstantial and badly built; many of them would be positively unsafe should a hurricane visit the town. The deficient construction of the houses is accounted for by the fact that nearly all the land whereon the town stands is owned by three or four proprietors who refuse to sell sites for houses, and give leases only for a short period and at exorbitant prices. If this state of matters is to hold good in the capital of the Colony, it is only futile to expect to ever see in it comfortable and well-built houses, and properly constructed houses and well-arranged streets have a very great influence on the health of a town, more especially in the tropics.

It would be highly advantageous to have the future capital built on Crown lands,

which could be sold at a reasonable price in small blocks, and under such restrictions as would prevent the land falling into the hands of a few speculators. Such an arrangement would ensure the towns being properly laid out, and householders being enabled to build on their own land would no doubt erect better dwellings than on a piece of land held precariously from a grasping proprietor.

4. It is the custom of the inhabitants of Levuka to collect and store up rain-water for domestic consumption, but as the supply of rain-water is an indefinite quantity and procurable only very irregularly, it is very frequently insufficient for the wants of the people, in which case they are obliged to depend on water from the river.

The river rises from the mountains directly behind the town through the middle of which it meanders to the sea. The quantity of water in it is absolutely valueless for the water sewage system of a large town, but it is also inadequate to supply the domestic wants of a large town. It could be made sufficient to supply the wants of a very considerable town by draining it up at several places in the ravine as it descends the mountain, but were such done and were a dam to give way, the result would be the inevitable destruction of the town, as the ravine descends the mountain in a straight line for the centre of the town.

Moreover, the quality of the water supplied from the river is very bad, so bad that it has been condemned as unfit for drinking and cooking on board Her Majesty's ship "Barracouta," at present in harbour, although the water supplied to the "Barracouta" was from an iron pipe that brings the water from a point in the river a considerable way up the mountain. It contains large quantities of organic matter, of a vegetable nature chiefly; and this water with a precarious supply of rain-water would be the only water-supply available for the capital on the site of the town of Levuka.

5. From what has already been said it must be evident that Levuka, as a site for the capital, presents no special advantage in any point of view, but many disadvantages, particularly of a sanitary nature. Its temperature is of necessity higher than that of any other place in the Colony inhabited by whites; it is cut off from a ready supply of such provisions as fresh milk, butter, and vegetables; its water supply would be bad in quality and defective in quantity without having recourse to the decidedly dangerous expedient of damming the creek; building sites are mainly procurable by filling up hollows that cannot be properly drained and that are full of vegetable matter; and the tenure of land is such as to entirely obstruct sufficiently substantial building.

Another point of very considerable import is that no quarantine station can be obtained near Levuka. A vessel put in quarantine must of necessity be anchored somewhere in the roadstead, and those persons undergoing quarantine must remain on board the ship, as they positively could not be landed on the island. In the event of some severe epidemic breaking out on board a ship in quarantine, this force would be very much magnified by the people being pent up on board ship, and they would be an imminent source of danger to the public, in spite of every precaution.

It happens very frequently at Levuka that vessels in the roadstead are driven on shore high and dry. Of this I myself have already seen more than one example; and as this accident is of frequent occurrence, it would render a vessel in quarantine as dangerous for the general community as the confinement on board ship would be detrimental to those that might be sick on board.

There are no statistics to prove anything with regard to the prevalency of disease or the mortality at Levuka, compared to other parts of the Colony, but that the town is unhealthy, even in its present sparsely-peopled state, is but too evident from the occurrence of several cases of typhoid fever recently, and from the numbers of other diseases existing among the inhabitants; and this ought to serve as a warning of what should reasonably be looked for in proportion as the town becomes more crowded. From the careful consideration of all these circumstances, taken in connection wih the facility with which the bulk of the inhabitants could leave Levuka for a better site for building, I could not recommend Levuka as adequate for the site of a large town, still less as a site for the future capital. It is only adapted as a site for a small village, such as, or smaller than, that at present occupying its site, and I earnestly dissuaded his Excellency from attempting to form the capital of the Colony in a place so eminently disadvantageous.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WM. McGREGOR, *M.D.*,
Chief Medical Officer.

The Honourable the Acting Colonial Secretary,
Fiji.

Inclosure 2 in No. 30.

Sir, *Levuka, August* 19, 1875.

IN compliance with his Excellency's command, conveyed in your letter to me of the 12th instant, I have the honour to submit the following Report:—

The township of Levuka is built on two small flat meadows, facing the sea, each at the entrance of a rocky gorge or gully, and on the sides of an irregular spur, 200 feet high, between them. The site faces the east, and is therefore open to the prevailing winds. The outer sides of the gorges, on which a few houses are also placed, extend quite down to the sea, completely limiting the site in each direction, and screening it from all winds west of the meridian. A large rock behind the former British Consulate, and another on which the American Consulate is built, are the north and south limits respectively. They are about 1,500 yards apart. A beach of loose stones and coral extends the whole distance between them, broken only where the point of the spur touches the sea. On account of the smallness of the space inclosed by the hills there is very little land breeze; the flat land, probably, does not amount to thirty acres in all. The soil in the meadows is a mixture of loose fragments of volcanic stones and alluvium, manifestly washed down from the hills behind; the level appears nowhere to exceed 5 feet above high-water mark, and in places to be much less.

Across these meadows the watercourses belonging to the two gullies find their way in a tolerably straight course to the sea. The northern of them is called Levuka Creek; the southern, Totonga Creek, from the small native village of the same name adjacent to each.

The barrier reef which forms the harbour is about a mile from the shore, and has two openings. Except where the rock appears at the surface the sides of the spur are covered with a red clay or loam, and a similar deposit is seen at the base of the higher hills. Pipes brought from the upper part of the creeks, and shallow wells, furnish the supply of drinking water, which, though at present not good, and, in the case of the wells, dangerous, could be made to suffice for the wants of the town by taking the pipes higher up the stream, providing filter-beds at their intake, and removing native habitations.

The temperature is perceptibly hotter than in other parts of the group, and the rainfall greater. During the past eighteen months no less than 202·84 inches of rain have fallen, as shown by a record kept at the Government buildings.

About 180 houses, containing a population of between 600 and 700 whites, stand on the area above described; all are constructed of wood, very lightly put together, those of the better kind having verandahs; perhaps one-fourth have an upper story; the great majority are built on the ground, or only a few inches above it; the roofs are covered with shingles or corrugated iron. Some attempts have been made to introduce the dry-earth system, but, as a rule, the houses are provided only with shallow cesspits placed wherever possible above their level. Dirty water and rubbish are habitually thrown on the ground, even round the better houses. There are nine houses for the sale of intoxicating drinks.

With the exception of the sites of the two villages the whole surface of these meadows appears to have been irrigated and used for the cultivation of taro and other vegetables at no very remote date; and a large portion is still used in this way.

From 80 to 90 of the houses are on the beach, 60 or 70 in the meadows, about 30 on the spur, and a few on the sides of the hills. Most of those away from the beach are approached by narrow alleys or footpaths.

A confined flat area of this kind is naturally subject to a rapid accumulation of water in and upon the soil whenever the rainfall exceeds what can be quickly removed by evaporation.

The numerous channels and culverts which have evidently been made expressly to relieve the flat ground from the water streaming down the hill sides fail in their object, since they are insufficient to prevent the ground from being converted into a swamp by a day's heavy rain.

In the period of ten months since annexation, the number of deaths among whites in Levuka has amounted to thirty; this, if the population be taken at 700 (probably an excessive estimate), gives a rate of mortality of 51 per 1000 per annum, which can scarcely be considered satisfactory from any point of view.

His Excellency desires me to report whether in my opinion the site above described is adequate or fit (1) for a large town; (2) for the future capital of the Colony. I think it very unfit for either.

The site is far too small for a large town, and can never be satisfactorily enlarged. It is already occupied to nearly its full extent, and space can be gained only by taking in

ground from the sea, or by making the sides of the spur into terraces; either of them a most costly operation, in consequence of the extreme hardness of the irregular volcanic rocks of which the hills consist. Again, the formation of a large mercantile town renders necessary the erection of warehouses of several floors along the beach or quay; this would render matters worse than they are on the flat ground, by shutting out the sea breeze, as well as by interfering with the drainage. Whether vessels could lie alongside wharves in such weather as that of even the past two months, or whether a suitable quarantine station could be selected in a convenient position, are questions which naval men will be able to answer.

No space remains within or near the town for a public recreation ground. Doubtless much might be done to improve the paths about the hill sides and along the shore so as to give people facilities for taking exercise, but this would not be a sufficient substitute. There are no shade trees in the town, nor any room to plant them. The wide shady streets which are almost indispensable in tropical towns, are impossible here. The tenure of land is also said to be very unsatisfactory, but on this point I have no authentic information.

Larger culverts might be constructed to carry off the rain-fall, but sewerage would be expensive and difficult on account of the irregularity with which the houses are placed, the nature of the soil, and the low level of the flats.

The dry-earth system would work very well here during fine weather, but could scarcely be trusted during the rainy months.

The impossibility of using wheeled vehicles is a hindrance to the carrying out of any good system of scavenging at present, nor could the high ground be made easily accessible without a very great amount of engineering labour. All the disadvantages of the town would be greatly increased if a much larger populatiou were brought here without an extension of area; in that case the occurrence of typhoid fever among the innabitants would be a far more alarming circumstance than it is at present.

On the other hand, if a new town were laid out on a fresh site, care would be taken to arrange the drainage, ventilation, and aspect in the most favourable way, and provisions could be made for future extension. Moreover, the use of less inflammable materials could be insisted on, and the risk of total destruction by fire within an hour, which is inseparable from a town built entirely of wood, might be avoided.

The public buildings here being of perishable materials, must be replaced in a few years at the farthest, so that their loss need not be considered a serious item in the course of removal.

Inconvenience to a few must necessarily be caused by a change, but in the interest of the community I have no hesitation in recommending that a better site be selected. I am convinced that any attempt to bring a large population to Levuka must end in disappointment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. MAYO.

The Acting Colonial Secretary.

No. 31.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received November 2.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Ovalau, Fiji, August* 21, 1875.

IN the month of March last I had the honour to receive from your Lordship a despatch* containing your Lordship's instructions with respect to most of the points raised by Sir H. Robinson in his despatch of the 20th October, 1874.

2. That despatch contains very clear and definite instructions as to the mode in which claims to land should be dealt with, and I never entertained a moment's doubt as to their meaning. Before leaving Sydney I caused the advertisement, of which I inclose a copy, to be published there, at Melbourne, and at Auckland, and since my arrival here the claims which have in answer been sent in have been arranged, filed, and examined, in readiness for the Titles Commission, when its appointment is rendered practicable by the arrival of the officer commanding the Royal Engineer's force to be stationed here. As I have already observed, your Lordship's views appeared to me to be very distinctly expressed in the 5th and subsequent paragraphs of the despatch in question, and I therefore never thought it necessary to avail myself of the permission given in the 14th paragraph, to refer to your Lordship for "further directions on any point on which I did not feel

* No. 6 of C. 1337 of 1875.

assured that I fully understood the intentions of Her Majesty's Government." Nevertheless, as questions are apparently likely to be raised with respect to the purport and force of your Lordship's instructions, I now think it as well to take advantage of that permission to seek from your Lordship an authoritative interpretation of their true import.

3. Your Lordship's despatch appears to me to lay down the principle that all the land in the Colony, "whether in the occupation of, or reputed or claimed to have been, prior to the cession of the Islands, the property of either Europeans or natives, as well as all waste and unclaimed land, has, by virtue of the Instrument which ceded to Her Majesty the 'possession of and full sovereignty and dominion over the whole of the Islands,' become absolutely and unreservedly transferred to the Crown, and that the Queen has the full power of disposing of the whole of the land in such manner as to Her Majesty may seem fit, having due regard to such interests as she may deem to deserve recognition under Article 4 of that Instrument."

But, although the assertion of this abstract right clears away many difficulties, it is not intended to inaugurate a policy of confiscation; on the contrary, it is fully recognized that it is desirable that *bonâ fide* transactions should not be disturbed, and, with a view to their settlement, all claims to land are to be sent before a Commission, the duties of which are to be to investigate and report to the Governor, and Crown grants are to issue to those persons "who appear to have acquired land fairly and at a fair price." These views and intentions of Her Majesty's Government I am instructed to "declare."

4. Now, although your Lordship's directions appear to me very clear and precise, I understand that the lawyers here question whether your Lordship can have intended to give such instructions, and whether, as a matter of fact, your Lordship has the power to do so; the Deed of Cession, according to these gentlemen, recognizing the existence of private rights to landed property already acquired previous to the cession, which rights it is maintained can only be determined by a Court of Law, and not by the decision of the Crown.

5. Unless such a course as that prescribed by your Lordship is adopted, an amount of fraud upon the unfortunate natives will be sanctioned under the colour of law, to which I should be most reluctant to be a party, and of which I should hesitate to be even a passive witness, for the association of the enforcement of these claims with the establishment of British rule would preclude all hope of conciliating or benefiting the native race.

6. If it is thought absolutely necessary to legislate on this subject (the Chief Justice and Attorney-General are doubtful as to the effect of the cession, and whether such a declaration as that apparently contemplated by your Lordship would be sufficient), it is my intention to introduce and pass a declaratory Ordinance, couched as nearly as may be in the terms of your Lordship's despatch, and asserting the Queen's rights as therein stated.

7. There is another subject connected with land claims on which I should be glad to be honoured by your Lordship's instructions. At the commencement of King Thakombau's "Constitutional" Government, in 1870, he was engaged in a contest with a tribe occupying the Livoni valley—the finest and most fertile part of the Island of Ovalau. The tribe ultimately submitted. The whole of its members—men, women, and children—were sold into slavery in other islands, and their lands mortgaged on behalf of Thakombau to Europeans, who advanced money to the "Cabinet" of the day. Since the cession these prisoners of war (for such in fact they were) have been released from slavery, but have not been restored to their homes or allowed to quit the islands to which they were removed. Since 1870 "wars" have been undertaken with the almost avowed object of aiding the Exchequer by obtaining lands to sell and prisoners to dispose of.

With regard to these latter cases, I apprehend little difficulty, but I confess that I am in some degree of doubt as to the principles which should govern the consideration of the Livoni case. The war was begun before the inauguration of Constitutional Government. Are we to regard it as an episode of savage warfare, or to have been the act of a civilized and Christianized Administration? If the former, as Thakombau would have had "vaka viti"—the undoubted right of killing all he conquered, he may be presumed to have had the right of removing them. If, on the contrary, it is to be regarded as the act of his "Government," I should be disposed to take a different view.

Operations against an independent tribe, with a view to its subjugation, were of course strictly legitimate, but to remove hundreds of people from their country, after they had submitted, is so contrary to all received notions of equity in civilized States that, if it was done by the direction and in the interest of Europeans, it appears to me that it should not be recognized, or the transactions which have resulted from it allowed to stand good.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR H. GORDON.

Inclosure in No. 31.

Notice.

IN order that doubts as to the validity, or otherwise, of existing titles to land in the Fiji Islands may be forthwith set at rest, all persons in possession of, or claiming an interest in, landed property in that Colony, are hereby required, with a view to the recognition and equitable adjustment of their claims, to forward the particulars of these to the Secretary to the Lands Commission, Levuka, Fiji, at the earliest possible date.

All applications should be made according to the following form, or as nearly in such form as the circumstances of the case permit:—

Form of Application.

To his Excellency the Governor of Fiji, &c., &c., &c.

The petition of *A B* of humbly showeth.—

1. That your petitioner, on or about the day of , became possessed of (or entitled to) certain lands situated in the Island of , in the Colony of Fiji, containing about acres more or lees, and bounded as follows:—

On the north by
On the south by
On the east by
On the west by

[*Where lands, in respect of which the claim is made, lie in different parts of the Colony, each separate parcel of land must be as accurately as possible described after the above form.*]

2. *Title.*—That your petitioner became possessed of (*or* entitled to) the said lands by [*here state whether by purchase, inheritance, forfeiture, or otherwise.*]

3. *Consideration.*—That due consideration, to wit [*here state particulars of consideration*] was given to the native possessors of the said lands for the purchase thereof by your petitioner [*or*, by the original purchaser, *as the case may be*].

4. *Registry.*—That such purchase was duly registered on the day of , in the office of the Consul, at .

5. That all the deeds, papers, &c., on which your petitioner's claim is founded, are herewith sent (*or* will be forwarded at an early date) for your Excellency's consideration.

Wherefore your petitioner prays that your Excellency will be pleased to direct a Crown grant of the said lands to be issued to him under the seal of the Colony.

Dated this day of 18 .

(Signature of Petitioner).

N.B. All claims will, as far as possible, be considered in the order of their receipt.

(Signed) C. MITCHELL,
Commissioner of Lands, Fiji.

No. 32.

The Earl of Carnarvon to E. L. Layard, Esq., C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, November 9, 1875.*

AS the period of your connection with this Department draws to a close, I avail myself of the opportunity of placing on record the high appreciation which I entertain of your services and proceedings, not only before the cession of Fiji, but also during the period of your temporary administration of the Government of the Colony.

From the commencement, you were placed in concert with your distinguished and most lamented colleague, the late Commodore Goodenough, C.M.G., in a position of no ordinary trust, and the value of your services previous to the cession of the Island has not escaped the favourable notice of Her Majesty's Government, while in the difficult and responsible position which you have subsequently filled with so much credit to yourself, you have earned their full approval.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 33.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, November* 17, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches of the 22nd of July and of the 21st of August,* inclosing reports by Mr. Layard, Dr. McGregor, and Dr. Mayo, relating to the site best fitted for the future seat of the Government of the Fiji Islands.

2. In the latter despatch you ask for my authority to take steps for the removal of the seat of Government from Levuka, without a further reference home, in the event of the Commanding Royal Engineer and the Admiralty Surveyor agreeing with yourself and your Council in the selection of either Suva or Nandi for the proposed site.

3. Although I am very sensible of the serious inconvenience attendant upon delay in fixing the site of the future capital, I fear that I cannot properly give you the desired authority, which I would readily do were it possible for Her Majesty's Government to form a decision on the information at present before me.

4. I need not say that the greatest weight will, when the proper time arrives, be given to your recommendation, but the Reports of the Naval and Military Authorities on the spot will have to be carefully considered by the War Office and the Board of Admiralty, as well as by myself. This shall be done with the utmost dispatch, and the decision of Her Majesty's Government shall be announced by telegraph so soon as the further information, which I shall await with interest, shall have been communicated to me, and duly considered. The preparations for the required buildings could however be, to a considerable extent, proceeded with as soon as the detachment of Royal Engineers arrives in the Colony, in anticipation of the selection of the particular site to be adopted.

5. I trust that you will furnish me with the fullest possible information respecting the means of water-supply for a considerable population, the anchorage and accommodation for large ships, the area of country adjacent to any proposed town site, either unoccupied or easily procurable for public purposes, and all those other points which must be kept in view when the site of the principal seat of Government is being determined upon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 34.

Admiralty to Colonial Office.

Sir, *Admiralty, November* 19, 1875.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of the Earl of Carnarvon, copy of a letter, from the Acting Commodore, commanding the Australian station, relative to the outbreak of measles at Fiji.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 34.

Sir, *"Dido," Sydney, September* 20, 1875.

WITH reference to your letter dated 5th June, 1875, forwarding despatches from the Colonial Office regarding the recent outbreak of measles in an epidemic form in the Fiji Islands, I have the honour to report that, in anticipation of their Lordships' directions, full enquiry into this matter has been made, and the result reported by the late Commodore Goodenough.

2. I beg leave to add that I trust their Lordships will agree with me that Lord Carnarvon's remark in the second paragraph of Mr. Malcolm's letter is founded entirely on the assertion of the Colonial officers, which assertion I have already stated in my former letter to have been at variance with facts.

3. Lord Carnarvon does not appear to have remembered that the Colony of Fiji, at the time of my visit to it, in Her Majesty's ship "Dido," was under Colonial jurisdiction, and had been so for some months, and I would humbly submit that my action was entirely such as

* Nos. 25 and 30.

would have been considered regular in any other British colony, where it might be presumed that some sanitary precautions would have been instituted before a sad calamity had opened the eyes of the Fijian officials to the danger of admitting to pratique vessels having contagious diseases on board.

4. The measles were epidemic in all the Australian Colonies and New Zealand at the end of 1874 and beginning of 1875. Frequent communication between Fiji and those places existed without a check during that period. The resident officials in Fiji, some of whom have been in the South Sea Islands for many years, must have known what the effect of measles would be when introduced among the native races far better than any of my medical officers, who have had no experience of their effects under such circumstances; and I cannot understand how it was in any way the duty of Dr. Goodman, on the vessels arriving in a port belonging to a Colony under proper Government, to interfere with any arrangements which that Government chose to make. He reported the fact of measles being on board, and his report, made by my express injunction, was treated as a matter not worthy of consideration.

5. I may also add that no case of measles had occurred on board among the crew of the "Dido," though only a few days previous to the embarkation of King Cakobau and his suite, thirty boys, all under 18 years of age, had joined; also, that a short time after the arrival of the "Dido" in Fiji, the steam-ship "Wentworth" had, it was reported, landed a white man suffering from measles, who died on shore at Levuka, and also that not for a long time after the patients suffering from measles were landed from the "Dido," were any sanitary precautions taken by the Colonial authorities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. C. CHAPMAN, *Acting Commodore,*
Commanding Australian Station.

The Secretary to the Admiralty.

No. 35.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, November* 19, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 21st of August,* in relation to the instructions which you received before leaving England respecting land claims in Fiji.

2. I must preface the remarks which I have to make upon your despatch by expressing my regret that you have apparently been supplied with an incorrect copy of my despatch of the 4th of March last,† containing the instructions in question.

3. The passage quoted by you does not correspond with the printed copy of the despatch which is forwarded herewith, and which corresponds with the corrected draft as it stands in the records of this Office. The signed copy sent to you should have been in entire accordance with this printed copy, and I have to request that you will cause the necessary corrections to be made in your copy from the print.

4. The difference, however, is not very material, since neither version would afford ground for supposing that Her Majesty could contemplate any harsh or unjust proceeding, and it seems hardly necessary to say now and once for all that as a matter of course Her Majesty will deem all interests based upon legitimate transactions as deserving of recognition.

5. But though the despatch and the Instrument of Cession executed by King Cakobau, are in accord in recognizing the right of Europeans to lands *bonâ fide* acquired, it remains to determine (1) the *bona fides* of the transactions by which lands are alleged to have been acquired, and (2) the mode of making title to land in the Colony. Upon the first point, I would refer you to the 5th Section, paragraph 13 (2), of my despatch, which authorizes the Colonial Government, in cases where "land appears to have been acquired fairly and at a fair price," to issue a Crown grant in fee simple. I need hardly here repeat that my intention was and is that *bonâ fide* claimants to land, and they alone, should have their claims recognized, and that the inquiry into the *bona fides* of each transaction should include an inquiry whether the land has been acquired "fairly and at a fair price." Upon the second point the bearing of the despatch is clear, for as all titles are to be derived from the Crown, it is desirable, whatever the nature of the tenancy may be, that the lands should be vested in the Crown in the first instance.

6. I have only to add that the despatch having laid down the broad principles of policy

* No. 30. † No. 6 of C. 1337 of 1875.

which, as it seemed and seems to me, ought to govern the case, it is your duty as Governor to bring them into operation in what may appear to you the best practicable manner, calling in aid, when necessary, the legislative as well as the executive powers of your Government. It appears to me that you have misapprehended the course which I intended to be followed in giving effect to them. I did not desire, as you seem to infer, to instruct you that the Crown could in the circumstances of the Colony, make any declaration of its own rights which would in any way obviate the necessity for passing Ordinances where such are required, and it must of course, in this as in other cases, remain for the Governor, assisted by the advice of his Council, to prepare and pass such Ordinances as are necessary for carrying into effect the policy prescribed by Her Majesty's Government.

7. With respect to your inquiry as to the restoration of the islanders removed by King Thakombau's Government from the Livoni Valley, it is, I think, clear that much of the cruel and violent transaction that you described must be accepted as a thing of the past. It is, I assume, impossible now to reverse, or even to repair, the evils which may have been done under a state of affairs for which the Crown is not responsible. But as regards the transactions subsequent to or immediately connected with the deportation of these unfortunate people, a strict inquiry should be made into their nature, and if it should appear that any fraud has been practised, through which the natives have been deprived of their lands in the interest of Europeans, the transactions, so far as is possible, should be set aside. But although this course may be prescribed as a general principle, I am aware that its strict application may of necessity be modified by the possibility that *bonâ fide* transactions may have taken place since 1870 with respect to the lands in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 36.

Colonial Office to Admiralty.

Sir, *Downing Street, December* 3, 1875.

I AM directed by Lord Carnarvon to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 19th ultimo,* inclosing a copy of a letter from the Acting Commodore commanding the Australian Station, relative to the outbreak of measles in Fiji.

2. Lord Carnarvon feels unable, after perusing this correspondence, as well as that which accompanied your letter of the 23rd of October last,† to form any decided conclusion as to the proportions in which the blame for the grave and lamentable neglect which has occurred in this matter should be divided among the Naval and Colonial officers. but he cannot at all admit that the Captain and Surgeon of Her Majesty's ship "Dido" have cleared themselves from the very serious imputation of having failed to give the fullest notice, both by employing the ordinary means of warning, and by special and strong representations to the Colonial authorities, that they had on board cases of a disease which was known to be of a very serious character in those latitudes, even on the mainland of Australia, and among white people.

3. Although, owing to the number of facts in dispute, Lord Carnarvon finds difficulty in arriving at the exact state of the circumstances, it appears clear that the "Dido" came into harbour without the yellow flag flying, which was a most unfortunate omission, and would also seem to show that both the Captain and Surgeon had failed properly to appreciate the gravity of the situation; for it could not but be expected that under the circumstances of the case the population would be eager to communicate with the ship the instant she arrived in harbour. A neglect, therefore, of the ordinary warning of danger was more than commonly imprudent.

4. It further appears that the first intimation of danger which reached the Administrator was a remark by the Captain, after he had boarded, that the Doctor had something to tell him, and that the Doctor, whom he saw in the cabin, informed him that there had been cases of measles on board, but afterwards added that the patients were now quite well. Of the manner and tone in which these communications were made it is of course impossible for persons not present to judge, and they would materially affect the force of the warning, but Lord Carnarvon cannot help coming to the conclusion on this point at which the late Commodore Goodenough arrived, that no one treated the matter seriously enough, all being indisposed to court or impose the restrictions of quarantine.

* No. 34. † No. 26.

5. Nor in this last respect are the Colonial Authorities free from a proportion of the blame. Mr. Layard was informed, in whatever tone and manner, that there were convalescent patients just recovered from an infectious disease on board; and it might have been expected that so experienced an official would thereupon, so far as depended upon him, have cut off communication between the ship and the shore.

6 On the other hand, it may be urged that Mr. Layard was not only without medical knowledge himself, but had had no opportunity of consulting any Colonial medical adviser on the subject before coming on board. Some allowance may, therefore, perhaps be made for an unprofessional man suddenly called upon to prescribe the proper sanitary precautions to take under the circumstances.

7. Lord Carnarvon, therefore, whilst quite ready to admit that the responsibility for this most lamentable loss of life must be shared by several individuals, cannot feel, on a review of the circumstances of the case, so far as they have been brought before him, that he ought in any way to modify the former expression of his opinion as to Dr. Goodman's conduct; nor can he cease to regret that both he and Captain Chapman failed to give such an intimation of the danger as might have been reasonably expected from officers of their experience and standing, and thus to save the Colony from a great and grievous calamity.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT G. W. HERBERT.

the Colony of Fiji.

(In continuation of C. 1337 of 1875.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty. February 1876.

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FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RELATIVE TO THE

COLONY OF FIJI.

[In continuation of C. 1404 of February 1876.]

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August 8, 1876.

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1876.

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Further Correspondence relative to the Colony of Fiji.

(In continuation of C. 1404 of February 1876.)

No. 1.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received December 13.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, September 9, 1875.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the short speech made by me on the assumption of the Government, and a report, extracted from one of the local newspapers, of the proceedings which took place on that occasion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Extract from the "Fiji Argus" of September 10, 1875.

INAUGURATION OF THE GOVERNMENT.—THE second chapter in the history of Fiji as a British dependency may be dated from Wednesday last, on which day Sir Arthur Hamilton Gordon read the Royal Charter constituting these Islands into a separate Colony, and was sworn in as first Governor under it. The morning was most auspicious, and the ceremonies at Nasova were attended by the principal residents of Levuka, and many visitors from all parts of the group. The dignified and unostentatious bearing of His Excellency made a marked and most favourable impression—the impress of a good understanding between the Governor and the governed. Long before 12 o'clock throngs of ladies and gentlemen wended their way to the Vice-regal habitation, the flagstaff of which was gaily adorned with bunting. A guard of honour, composed of blue-jackets and marines from Her Majesty's ship "Barracouta," under Lieutenant Maxwell, and a troop of native soldiers, under Lieutenant Olive, occupied the front and both sides of the building. His Excellency, dressed in the Windsor uniform, and wearing the decoration of St. Michael and St. George, appeared in the centre of the verandah exactly at 12 o'clock, and was attended by Mr. E. L. Layard, late Administrator of the Government; Sir W. Hackett, Chief Justice; Captain Stevens, Her Majesty's ship "Barracouta;" Captain Havelock, Receiver-General; Mr. De Ricci, Attorney-General; Mr. Thurston, Auditor-General, and a number of other celebrities, as well as his Private Secretaries and Aides-de-camp.

Sir Arthur then directed all to uncover, and, producing from its casket the Royal Charter, in a clear, sonorous, and distinct voice read it. Three cheers were then given for Her Most Gracious Majesty, and a Royal salute of twenty-one guns was fired from two field guns landed from the "Barracouta."

Captain Havelock, the newly-appointed Colonial Secretary, then read his Excellency's Commission, at the conclusion of which three hearty cheers were repeated, and a Governor's salute of seventeen guns fired.

His Excellency then made the following exceedingly well-timed remarks as follows:—

"Gentlemen,—I have now assumed the administration of the Government, and my first act on its assumption is to appeal to all inhabitants of the Colony, settlers

and natives alike, to co-operate with me in the endeavour to raise Fiji to that position of prosperity and importance which we trust it may one day attain.

"Her Majesty's injunction, which has just been read, that you should be 'aiding, assisting, and obedient to him who represents her here,' has, I am sure, not fallen on inattentive and unwilling ears. For myself, I will only say that it is in no light spirit that I have undertaken the task confided to me. No light cause would now induce me to abandon it.

"That I shall make mistakes in my administration is probable; that I cannot give satisfaction to all is certain; but, with the blessing of God and your support, I do not despair of being useful to the new Colony. Its history as a Colony begins to-day. May the record of its yet unwritten pages be one of prosperity and peace, of harmony and justice."

This was received with great applause, and the interesting proceedings were brought to a close.

No. 2.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received December 13.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, September 9, 1875.*

TAKING advantage of the probability that a large number of planters and other settlers would assemble here to be present at the proclamation of the Charter, I invited them, by a public notice, to meet me at Nasova on the day following that of my formal assumption of the Government, and they accordingly assembled here on the 2nd instant to the number of about 200.

2. I have the honour to inclose a report of the Speech made by me on this occasion.

3. This report is, so far as it goes, tolerably faithful, but is of course incomplete, and the compression to which what I said has been subjected has, in some cases, I fear, rather obscured the sense and sequence of my remarks.

4. The immediate effect of this Speech has undoubtedly been in the highest degree satisfactory, but how far the favourable impression thus produced is likely to be a durable one remains to be seen. I fear I cannot anticipate that it will be of long duration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

P.S.—I should add that of the questions proposed by me, the two regarding coolie immigration were unanimously answered in the affirmative. The three questions respecting the suitability of Levuka for the capital were answered in the negative by a large majority.

A. G.

Inclosure in No. 2.

Speech.

IT is not my intention to make any formal set speech, or to indulge in oratorical figures or safe official utterances. I wish to say a few plain words to you very plainly, to ask some questions, and to give some information. Formal addresses and replies are all very well in their proper place and at their proper time, but their place is not here, and their time is not now. At the outset of a new Colony the utmost freedom of intercourse between Governor and governed is, in my opinion, essential. Very large powers have, as you are aware, been entrusted to me, and these powers I shall not hesitate, if necessary, to use; but it will always be my desire to act in accordance with your wishes. Sometimes it may be impossible for me to do so consistently with what I deem my duty, but experience has taught me that in nine cases out of ten where the wishes of a community are disregarded by its rulers, it is not the result of deliberate intention, but of ignorance as to what the wishes really are. It is, therefore, essential that the freest and frankest intercourse should exist between us. Those of you who have already

been so good as to call on me have not, I hope, spread such a report of their reception as to deter others from following their example, but I cannot expect everyone to come and hunt me up; and it is fully my intention to go about the group as much as possible to visit you at your own homes; circumstanced as this Colony is, I have no belief whatever in sitting at a table behind a big inkstand, with a bundle of quills on one side of me, and a bundle of red tape on the other.

And now, gentlemen, I must thank you very heartily for having, in such large numbers, responded to my invitation, to do which has, I know, caused many of you trouble, expense, and inconvenience. You may, however, feel some disappointment at my not being prepared to announce to you a policy. You may think it a very little thing to hear a few questions asked and a few statements made, which you may say you would have seen just as well in the newspapers. But I ask you not to think so, for in truth it is not a little thing that a system of free and unreviewed communication between us should be inaugurated, which I hope will be of long duration, and which, cordially carried out, cannot fail, I think, to be attended with much benefit to the Colony. Some of you, as I have observed, may be disappointed at my not being ready to give a complete programme, cut and dried, of what I intend to do, or wish to do, and may say, "Why he has been here two months already or more. Hasn't he made up his mind what he is going to do?" Well, gentlemen, two months may seem for some purposes a long time, but for other it is a very short time. There are some folks who come out crammed full of fine theories and preconceived notions, and attempt, more or less unconsciously, to force facts to suit them. You will recollect the story of the Frenchman, who, on being told that the facts did not bear out his theories, answered, "So much the worse for the facts." Such a course is ridiculous on the part of any man; it is worse than ridiculous—it is mischievous—on the part of one who has to govern. No, gentlemen, I am not disposed to ignore facts, but I am slow to satisfy myself respecting them, and am not prepared always to accept anything as a fact, simply because it is told me as one.

I have no preconceived plans to carry out, regardless of circumstances, and time must elapse before I come to any fixed opinion on many most important points. Meanwhile, I must thank those who have been good enough to furnish me with suggestions. Many have done so, and I wish that more had done the same. They have all been carefully read and carefully thought over, and many of them contain hints of extreme value. But I think the fact most prominently forced upon my notice by these communications has been how great a diversity of opinion can exist in a small community. Hardly two think alike. One gentleman says, "If you want to assure the prosperity of the Colony, do so and so." Another says, of the very same thing, "Whatever you do, take care not to do that; if you do the Colony is ruined beyond redemption," and so on. In short, reading these communications remind me of the old Athenian fable, which I fancy we were all acquainted with in our youth, the man and the boy who drove their donkey to market, and listened to everything said by passers by as they went along. At first the fact of the father riding, and the son walking, was looked upon as harsh treatment of the boy; when their position was reversed, the son was censured as undutifully selfish; then they both got on and were accused of cruelty to animals. At last the end of it was that they carried the donkey instead of being carried by it. Well, gentlemen, I cannot yet say which of the various suggestions made to me I shall follow, or that I shall not change my course if I see reason to do so. I am not too proud to own myself mistaken, or be unthankful for suggestions which may prove me to be so, but there is one thing I will not do, and I may as well tell you so at once,—I don't mean to carry the donkey. But though too soon to proclaim a policy on all points, there are some things so plainly wanted that I cannot hesitate at once to declare them. We want capital invested in the Colony; we want a cheap, abundant, and certain supply of labour; we want means of communication; we want justice readily and speedily administered; we want some facilities for education; and lastly (though, perhaps, that interests me more nearly and specially than you), we want revenue. Now, as to capital, it is clear that will not be invested in the Colony until there is good security for its investment, that is to say, until the land titles are settled, and a steady supply of labour provided for. What we are going to do as to the land question I will tell you presently; I now pass on to that of labour.

An ample and steady supply of labour is absolutely essential to the Colony. From whence, and under what management shall we obtain it most certainly, most cheaply, and with the least probability of abuse?

The first question is whether the management of the introduction of immigrants should be undertaken by the Government exclusively, or, as at present, by private parties. I am of opinion that it should be undertaken by the Government. The immigration would be more systematically carried on, its initial expenses would be borne by the Colony, and the planter, instead of being called on as now to pay a large sum down at once, would have the amount distributed over a period of years. There would, moreover, be an almost absolute guarantee against abuses. But the question is one on which I should wish to have your opinion, and I will ask you to write ay or no before you leave the room to the following question, which you will find written on a sheet of paper near the door: "Is it in your opinion desirable that the Government should undertake the conduct and management of the immigration of labour?"

Now as to the source from which labour is to be obtained. Shall we attempt not to supplant but to supplement Polynesian labour by that of Indian coolies? I think that we shall do well to do so. I have nothing to urge against Polynesian labourers, but I think we must admit that the supply of it is decreasing, and the cost of it increasing. All the evidence I have been able to obtain tends to show that this state of things will continue. If Queensland persists in giving higher wages than are given here, wages here must rise, or our supply must cease. The Imperial Government also is likely to insist on measures which will render increased expenditure necessary. The supply of labour to be obtained from India is practically boundless. The amount of wages ordinarily given to Indian coolies is well known. I hold in my hand some statistics as to the probable expense of their introduction here. My calculations are, 3*l.* 18*s.*, the expense for recruiting; 10*s.* a-head per man for the agent; passage money, 12*l.*; cost of returning same, 3*l.*; in all 19*l.* 8*s.* Deducting from this the amount of one third, as paid by the Government, we arrive at the fact that, for 12*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.* we obtain a coolie servant for five years, with his wages of 5*d.* per day additional, with rations. The West Indian system of immigration, which works well, is that before a certain day in the year each planter sends in a requisition to the immigration agent, stating the number of coolies he requires for the coming year. These are added up together, and the total they amount to is sent for from India. The men when they arrive are assigned by lot to the applicants, so that there may be no complaints of unfair play. If a number less than that asked for is sent, a proportional diminution in the number allotted is made all round. An indenture fee, in some Colonies 1*l.*, in others 2*l.*, is paid by the planter on each man allotted to him, and a like amount in each succeeding year of the five for which the coolie is indentured to him. The remainder of the expenses, so far as the planter's share of it is concerned (for the Government bears one-third), is defrayed by means of an export duty on produce, which varies every year, according as the number of immigrants sent for is great or small. It must be remembered, when speaking on this subject, that the Indian labourer enters upon his service for a much longer period than the Polynesian. He is engaged to work upon the estate for one certain five years, together with an additional five before he is entitled to receive a return passage to the place whence he came. Thus it would be seen a Polynesian would have to be returned and re-engaged three times for every one an Indian labourer would be. The expenses of this might easily be calculated, and the saving soon arrived at. He must, however, candidly point out that, in one respect, the contract of Indian labourers contrasted unfavourably with those of Polynesia—that of wages; he saw that 5*d.* per diem, with rations, was the least amount they could be maintained at, and that without rations they would cost 10*d.* per diem.

If we had both systems of immigration at work the Government would send for such a number of Polynesians and such a number of Indians as the planters might respectively ask for. It would depend on themselves which they would have, and no doubt they would ask for that which on the whole they found most advantageous for them. The immediate question then was, "Is it in your opinion desirable that efforts should be made to effect the introduction of immigration labour from India?" and to this also I would ask you to return an answer.

I now come to the administration of justice. A petition has been forwarded to the late Administrator of the Government, Mr. Layard, with reference to the restrictions that had been placed upon the facilities for obtaining justice in respect to the claims of larger creditors than those who had been indebted to them more than 300*l.*, as well as other complications which rendered the Law Courts of the Colony not so comprehensive as they ought to be. I agree with the remarks of the

petitioners, and all the evils they had to complain of. By an Ordinance passed yesterday by the Legislative Council, the action of the late Central Court was confirmed and ratified, and whilst continuing its jurisdiction it was extended, and now had all the powers of the Supreme Court of New South Wales. It offered every facility to those who required, to whatever extent the interposition of justice, to make good their grievances. I believe in this respect the administration of justice would be proceeded with in an exemplary, dignified, and efficient manner; and I do not think it is necessary for me to dwell further on this topic.

Now he would come to the question of inter-insular communication, and they must have seen by public advertisement that this had been amongst the first of the matters he had endeavoured to provide for. He had called for tenders to supply two steamers to meet the wants of all the planters, and these he would certainly see were placed at their disposal. The subject of roads was also to him one of the greatest importance. The roadmakers he looked upon as the greatest civiliser, even more important, from an initiatory point of view, than the schoolmaster. Not that he would undervalue those who inducted youth into the first lessons of reading and writing, and, so far as he could do it, he would help all who laboured to instruct the children of Fiji. But the roadmaker was the first civiliser. His work enabled the people to look around them and benefit by civilisation, and his best assistance would be given to the inaugurator of new roads. (Cheers.)

With regard to education, however, I will give every encouragement to those who open schools of instruction, still I cannot see how I can subsidize them. For although a subsidy might be given to a good schoolmaster, a superior one might make this the scene of his labours, and might well complain if he could not have assistance at a greater ratio than he who had preceded him.

The next point for discussion would perhaps touch them more nearly than any that had gone before. I allude to that of revenue. I am not going to ask you if you would like to be taxed (laughter), but would like to have your expressed opinion as to its easiest application. No doubt there were many diverse opinions as to whether there should be a general system of taxation, or whether it should be more local. That it should come in some shape or form was inevitable, but it is with me, indeed, a matter of earnest consideration how it could be imposed that it would be least disagreeable to those who had to pay it. (Cheers.) I could not see the clock which was over my head, but I certainly would be glad to hear, however late in the day it might be, any remarks they might wish to make on the incidence of local taxation.

I cannot yet conclude, for there are other matters of grave importance to be decided, and none less so than that as to the formation of a Legislative Council. I have read to you the Royal Charter of the country, and that made provision for such Council with only two members, but I am desirous of extending its numbers, as I have the power to do. Whilst, of course, it is within my authority to construct the Council of such elements as I consider most desirable, it is indeed my wish that all the people of Fiji should be represented, and that my Council should consist of persons that would be acceptable to them. (Cheers.) I cannot allow an election to take place, for that would be opposed to the policy of a Crown Colony and to my instructions; and, indeed, I think as the Colony is situated perhaps the nomination of gentlemen to constitute a Legislative Council would be better than the counting of noses might demand. (Cheers.) Still I would ask you to give your assistance in providing a Legislative Council, and would take it as a favour if you would each write the names of four persons upon a slip of paper to be given in before you leave the room. I would not say who in this way appeared most prominent would be appointed to the Legislative Council. But I will say that great weight will be attached by me to the names you submit.

With regard to the question that had lately agitated the public mind as to where the capital was to be situated, this also I will gladly receive your opinion upon. Of course I am aware that if I applied individually to the inhabitants of the Colony to resolve this question, I should hear from each person a decided opinion that any spot within five miles of their own home was where the capital should be. (Laughter.) I know the opinion of persons residing on Ovalau, and would not on this occasion ask for them to give expression to it. But those now present I will ask. Is Levuka, in your opinion a convenient site for the seat of Government? Does Levuka, in your opinion, possess the facilities for extension required for a capital? Is Levuka, in your opinion, a satisfactory site, in a sanitary point of view, for a large city? But I have some things to tell as well as

to ask. I suppose that if I were to submit to a catechism, the first question put to me would be, "How about titles to land?"

Well, gentlemen, I am not one of those who consider that statesmanship consists in mystery, and I will read you *verbatim* the instructions I have received from the Imperial Government on this point. Lord Carnarvon says: "It should be declared that the whole of the land within the limits of Fiji, whether in the occupation of, or reputed or claimed to have been, prior to the cession of the islands, the property of either Europeans or natives, as well as all waste and unclaimed land, has by virtue of the instrument which ceded to Her Majesty the 'possession of, and full sovereignty and dominion over, the whole of the islands,' become absolutely and unreservedly transferred to the Crown, and that the Queen has the full power of disposing of the whole of the land in such manner as to Her Majesty may seem fit, having due regard to such interests as she may deem to deserve recognition under Article 4 of that instrument.

"With the view of disturbing as little as possible existing tenures and occupations, and of maintaining (as far as practicable, and with such modifications only as justice and good policy may in any case appear to demand) all contracts honestly entered into before the cession, the Colonial Government, to which the rights of the Crown are delegated in that behalf, should forthwith require all Europeans claiming to have acquired land by purchase to give satisfactory evidence of the transactions with the natives on which they rely as establishing their title; and if the land appears to have been acquired fairly, and at a fair price, should issue to the persons accepted, after due inquiry, as owners, a Crown grant in fee simple of the land to which they may appear entitled, subject to any conditions as to further payments and charges, or otherwise, which may appear just. Henceforth all dealings in land between Europeans and natives shall not only be invalid, and not recognizable by any Court of Law, but shall be expressly forbidden by enactment. Whenever any European desires to purchase any native lands, his application must be addressed to the Colonial Government, which, if it think fit to sanction such purchase, shall itself acquire the land, and fix the price at which it shall be granted by the Crown to the applicant, and that, as between Europeans, no land shall be transferable except under the provisions of the Ordinance for land transfer, through the Registration Office, which it will be your duty at once to cause to be enacted on the model of the Acts on this subject now in force in Australia."

The object of these instructions is to settle these claims in the speediest, cheapest, and most equitable manner. Advantage has therefore been taken of the technicality that the land has, strictly speaking, all passed to the Queen, in order to obviate the necessity for tedious law suits and technical legal decisions, not always in accord with substantial justice. This could best be done, not by recourse to Law Courts, or by pressing them through a labyrinth of legal forms, but by submitting them to a well-chosen Commissioner, who could deal with every case fairly and promptly. I can tell you, although grumblers might construe into into tyranny and injustice the cause Her Majesty's Government had determined to pursue with reference to the lands, that the course to be adopted was, nevertheless, not so. The *onus probandi*, the necessity of showing that they had a good claim, is thrown on the claimants; but if the claim is a *bonâ fide* one, they have nothing whatever to fear. The Commission to be appointed would undertake their investigation so soon as the Royal Engineers expected here arrived, the officer commanding which being a member of the Board of Commissioners. Before the Crown grants could be issued, however, surveys must be made. But, in order to prevent delay to persons in operating with their properties, certificates of title would be granted so soon as decisions were arrived at, which would be as good a patent for dealing with land as the Crown grant itself. (Cheers.)

I suppose the next question I should be asked would be, as to the debts and liabilities of the former Government? Well, on that point, too, I will read you my instructions:—

"You will cause it to be very clearly understood that Her Majesty's Government and the Colonial Government absolutely and entirely decline to admit that they are necessarily under any obligation to take up the liabilities incurred by those who have purported to administer the affairs of the Islands. No claim of the kind preferred by way of a demand or as of right can for a moment be entertained. But although I think it necessary to define, in the strongest manner, the refusal of Her Majesty's Government to accept, or allow the Colonial Government to accept, any direct liability or obligation connected with the acts of persons for whom it has

been in no way responsible, I am nevertheless of opinion that it will be for the credit of the newly-constituted Government that voluntarily, and as an act of grace, it should offer to undertake the payment of so much of the debts incurred before the cession as, after proper inquiry, it may appear just and fair for it to assume.

"As Sir H. Robinson has pointed out, it will be necessary, for this purpose, to examine carefully all claims put forward; and, a spresent advised, I am of opinion that the four classes of the creditors of the so-called Fijian Government may be dealt with on the general principles laid down in paragraph 9 of his despatch of 20th October. But with regard to the time and manner in which any such payments are to qe made, the Government of Fiji must reserve to itself the fullest discretion. I am disposed to think that the best course will be for you to notify publicly, as soon as convenient after your assumption of the government, that while the Government of Fiji declines to be responsible for any debts or liabilities incurred by, or in the name of, Cakobau, or any other persons purporting to represent any Government of Fiji prior to the cession, it is, nevertheless, willing to consider any proofs that may be brought forward of money or supplies having been actually provided for public purposes; but the persons so applying to be reimbursed must be made clearly to understand that it will rest entirely with the Colonial Government to decide in each case whether the sum claimed, or a part of it, should be paid, and if so, at what time, and in what manner, the payment shall be made."

I will only add that it is the wish of Her Majesty's Government, and my own intention, that these instructions should be construed in a generous and liberal spirit. If any gentleman wishes to put other questions to me, I shall, as far as possible, answer them on the spot.

And now, before I close, you will, I hope, forgive me if I venture on one or two bits of very plain advice. It might be that progress would not be so rapid as hoped for,—indeed I fancy grumblers have been already inquiring as to what advantages have accrued by the new state of things. I would advise them not to be in too great a hurry, Six months was not sufficient to produce great changes. Time is required, and no doubt in time prosperity would eventuate. There was one remark I would make, in all sincerity, and in all kindness. I myself could perceive that there did pervade this little community, as in all small communities, a strong party, a strong personal feeling. I beg that it might be a thing of the past. I myself would ever discourage personal animosity and tittle tattle, and whatever unpleasant remarks were made, they will never have the slightest effect upon me. (Cheers.) I have been in small communities, and, perhaps, know what they are as well as most men; I ask you to have confidence in me. If at any time my action does not seem satisfactory, let it be pointed out, but do not think I am to be given up as useless because I am sometimes wrong.

Perhaps as a new-comer I have the advantage—I can form a more impartial opinion. I repeat my desire to obtain your confidence. I fancy there might be grumblers who might say, "Well, it's all very well for him; he comes here with a great salary; what does he know about it?" This might be indeed said. It is not very dignified to notice it; but I am determined to throw dignity to the winds, and will state why I came. It was because I believed I might be useful; but I will tell you plainly, once for all, that to come here has cost me many and great sacrifices. I trust you will not be hurt by my saying so. It perhaps will appear to you that my salary is disproportionately large—it was certainly a large one. But it was accepted by me in order to secure the claim for a pension my former services entitled me to, and which I should forfeit by accepting a salary nominally less; it is my intention to return nearly half my salary, and they would be much mistaken who thought the remainder would go into my pocket.

Then, again, there are others who might say, "Oh, we have heard of you before. You are a philanthropist—a friend of the blacks," &c. It might be so. I confess I do not like to see a man put upon on account of his colour; but this was certain—I have no sympathy with those whose philanthropy demanded that they should think little of their own race and colour. My sympathy for the coloured races is strong; but my sympathy for my own race is stronger. Those who had under no ordinary amount of hardship, privation, and toil, laid the foundations of civilization here were entitled to the warmest sympathy, and they certainly have mine.

And, now, one word more. It was one I have purposely avoided saying before lest you should think I was trying to gain your ear by flattery. You are pretty well aware that the fame of Fiji has not always been of the best; nor had it

always borne a good name with the world. I wish to say publicly that I think these charges unjust. My own short experience proves to me that much that has been said against the country is undeserved. Society here is certainly not angelic. There is, no doubt, a certain amount of rascality—there is more drunkenness and dawdling than I like to see, but not more, I think, than are to be found in other young countries similarly circumstanced; whilst there are in the community men of education, probity, kindness, and enterprize, who would do credit to any State. With this expression of opinion I will bring my address to a close.

No. 3.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(*Received December* 13.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, September* 20, 1875.

SHORTLY after my arrival here, Cakobau (who has, on every occasion since the cession, consistently shown the utmost anxiety to confirm and strengthen the authority over the natives of the Government by which his own has been superseded) suggested that, after the public reading of my Commission, I should go through a ceremony which, he said, rarely took place, but which had been performed at his own inauguration as Vuni Valu, and which, he assured me, would pledge all the chiefs and people to me as their feudal superior. This ceremony, I found, consisted in drinking a bowl of yagona in the presence of the chiefs, whilst they saluted me with their hands in the manner in which an inferior among the Fijians salutes his chief when drinking.

2. After consulting those best acquainted with the natives, and having been assured by them that the performance of the ceremony would undoubtedly afford me a great hold over both chiefs and people, I assented to Cakobau's proposal, and on the 11th instant the ceremony took place at Bau, a locality selected by me for its performance, on account of its being the ancient capital, the traditional head-quarters in former times of cannibalism and heathen superstitions, and a place still of so much importance that its common people are regarded as chiefs in other parts of the group.

3. Bau is a small island some twenty miles from Levuka, very near the main land of Viti Levu, and entirely covered with houses, which cluster round a low hill in its midst. Its aspect, always picturesque, was rendered doubly so, on the occasion of my arrival, by the crowds assembled to witness my landing. As I stepped from the boat in which I had sailed down from Levuka, Cakobau, after saluting me with the "tama," or cry of respect, took me by the hand and led me, still holding it, through the streets of the town. We walked thus along a broad road, shaded in some places by trees, past the sites of heathen temples, now destroyed, past the upright stones which mark the ancient places of sacrifice, and at length reached the entrance of his own residence.

The way was lined by men and women in clean bright dresses and seated on the ground in perfect silence in the crouching attitude of Fijian respect.

4. On entering the house I was conducted to the dais, Cakobau taking his own seat below me on the floor.

An interesting conversation ensued, in which the Vuni Valu very emphatically repeated many times, and I have no doubt with perfect sincerity, the expression of his satisfaction at the assumption of sovereignty by Her Majesty, a satisfaction which he thought that the majority of the chiefs shared with himself, although they did not see so clearly the advantages of the change. He denounced by name, and more than once, two or three of the great chiefs who led drunken and irregular lives, and insisted on the necessity of religion, morality, and sobriety in any one placed in command, in a style which, his past history considered, was sufficiently surprising, but was, I believe, thoroughly true and real.

5. Before I left he asked permission to send the criers through the town, announcing the ceremony of the next day, and they were so engaged until far into the night.

6. The following morning the Vuni Valu assembled all the high chiefs, and lectured them in their duties under the new state of things, their ignorance, short-

comings, and foolish anticipations, after a fashion which those who heard it describe as in the highest degree striking and effective.

7. In the afternoon the great chiefs to the number of about 200 took their seats in a double row in a circle on the ground, under the shelter of a great awning of mat-sails, erected in the rara or public square of Bau. Outside the awning were the towns people and my native guard, and at a little distance on a small rise of ground, Cakobau's wife, Adi Litia, with her family, ladies, and servants.

8. The yagona having been made to the accompaniment of the usual chanting, was brought in a small bowl to Cakobau by a young chief of high rank, and by Cakobau handed to me, amid the profoundest silence. As I began to drink, at Cakobau's signal and himself leading, the assembly raised the hand clapping and shouts which imply acknowledgment of superior rank and position, and on their cessation, as I ceased to drink, I was much struck by the sudden momentary buzz of suppressed but excited conversation which contrasted strongly with the silence observed both before and subsequently.

9. The address, of which I inclose a copy and translation, was then read in Fijian by Mr. Carew.

10. After this I proceeded to administer the oath of allegiance to the Queen to each of the ten Rokos, reappointing each, with one exception, to his former Government by the delivery of a staff, accompanied by a few words of admonition, with their hands placed within my own.

11. It was curious and interesting to watch them as each successively sat before me, with the Bulis, or district Chiefs, of their respective provinces seated behind him. There, somewhat ill at ease, in a place where, though treated with much outward politeness, he is naturally regarded with much bitterness and ill-will, was Maafu the Tongan, the bold and ambitious foreigner who has secured a master's hold upon the half of Fiji, and there were others with whose names I will not weary your Lordship, but among whom "the King of the Reefs" (Tui Thakan), with great awe of the oath on his handsome Assyrian face, the wise and good Tui Bua, the most reflective man and best Governor I have met in Fiji, in countenance resembling a Spanish ecclesiastic of the 16th century, and Na Cagi Levu, the energetic and large-limbed Chief of Kandava, were perhaps the most remarkable.

12. The ceremony concluded with the formal donation on my part of a large present of cloth to the principal Chiefs, to be distributed subsequently, and the presentation to me of an address from the native clergy of the district, which, according to a promise made by me to them, I inclose to your Lordship in original,* that your Lordship may see how clear and good a handwriting that of a native Fijian may sometimes be.

13. Cakobau seemed much relieved and in much better spirits when the whole affair was over. He had urged it with much persistence on some of those present, from whom he had wrung but an unwilling acquiescence in its performance, and who would fain have avoided any overt admission that they had accepted a stranger for their master. The fact of this reluctance justified Cakobau in having insisted on the importance of the acknowledgment. None were at last absent whose presence was of the slightest consequence, and the significance in the eyes of the native population of the public act of homage rendered not only, as on my first arrival by Cakobau himself on behalf of others, but by all the assembled Chiefs, can hardly be overrated.

14. Cakobau declined to wear at this ceremony the vast train of tappa in which it was formerly his custom to appear on state occasions, saying that "the time for such things was past," and appeared, as did nearly all the other Chiefs, in a long "Sulu," of many folds of Chief's tappa, a light brown with black spots, reaching nearly to the feet, almost the only exceptions to this costume being that of some of the native magistrates, and some of the Chiefs from the Lau Islands, who wore black tappa, and the native Ministers, who were for the most part dressed entirely in white.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

P.S.—Inclosure No. 1 is not yet printed, but will be forwarded by next opportunity.

A. G.

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* Not printed.

No. 4.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, December* 27, 1875.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 9th of September,* and have read with interest the speech which you delivered at Nasova to a number of planters and other settlers, on the day following that on which you formally assumed the Government of Fiji.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARNON.

No. 5.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received January 10, 1876.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, September* 10, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a very interesting report by Mr. Carew, on the state of certain districts of the Island of Viti Levu, to which I had sent him for the purpose of ascertaining the truth of rumours which had reached me as to the probability of disturbances on the part of the tribes of the interior.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

Inclosure in No. 5.

Your Excellency, *Levuka, Ovalau, September* 3, 1875.

HAVING been commissioned by your Excellency to visit the various districts on the Na Viti Levu for the purpose of inquiring into the existing state of affairs, and with reference to reports of impending disturbances in the Ba and Nadroga Provinces, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I left Levuka for the above purposes on the 18th of August ultimo, visiting Bukadra (Korotubu), Navula (Nadroga), Nadranu (Ra), Navatu (Ra), Nakasi (Tavua), Lagunu (Ba), Buduka (Nadi), Cuan (Nadroga), Korolevu (Serua), Serua, Suva, Navuso (Naitasiri), and Bau, thence on to Ovalau, where I arrived on the 1st instant, after an absence of fourteen days. I also called on many of the settlers on different parts of the coast, who, with the sole exception of Mr. Bucknell at Korolevu (Serua), expressed themselves as feeling secure, and had not fear of any attack from the natives.

Mr. Bucknell, of Korolevu (Serua), is in a peculiar position, as the coast village adjoining his residence is inhabited by people belonging to the interior, and their relatives and friends are constantly in the habit of coming down to the coast in considerable numbers, armed, and cause much annoyance and alarm to Mr. Bucknell and the members of his family.

I arrived on the second day of my journey at the village of Nakasi (Lavua), but owing to the darkness of the night, took the wrong arm of the delta, and did not thus have an opportunity of visiting M. D'Este, the Justice of the Peace of the district.

The people of Lavua district (Vatusila tribe) are closely related to the Nabutantau men (Vatusila), against whom warrants have lately been issued for murder and cannibalism at Lavua (inland). I found them most uncommunicative, professing to know nothing, and to have heard of nothing, and declared themselves to be ignorant of the name of the Buli of their district. The teacher, "Sefanaia," refused plainly to give me any information, declaring that, if they did so, the neighbours in the interior might feel annoyed.

The people of this district are in the habit of supplying information, and, when they possess it, ammunition, and are suspected of treasonable tendencies in conunction with the Nabutantau and other turbulent remnants of tribes in the nterior. I cautioned them most plainly, and explained clearly to them the fact

* No. 2.

that accessories were also liable to punishment, and that they were lying under a most dangerous belief when they supposed that actual perpetrators of offences alone were liable to punishment. The teacher I threatened to report to the head of the district. They then told me some stories about murders and other matters which they stated had been perpetrated by Nagaga people, with whom their friends in the interior are on bad terms, and which I knew to be false at the time.

I afterwards explained to the people here, as at every place I landed at, the motives of the Lands Commissioner in visiting the districts; also many other matters calculated to set their minds at rest on many important subjects.

I then left for the Ba River, visiting several of the planters, and made inquiries into the probable cause of the burning of Fitzgerald's place, Na Korowabuta, and also visited Na Vunisamaloa, the place the Fitzgeralds lived at both before and after the occurrence. I found the general impression to be that Fitzgerald himself had burnt his house for ulterior purposes.

On returning to Sagumu, the chief town of Ba Province, I examined Pita, one of the cook boys working for Fitzgerald at the time. This boy Pita confessed, in the clearest possible way that he had seen Fitzgerald set fire to the houses, and also that he was promised 5*l*., which was to be paid by Government. I took this lad's statement down, and handed it over to Mr. Eastgate, the Stipendiary Magistrate, who arrived during the night.

The planters whom I had an opportunity of seeing, express themselves in most indignant terms at the supposition that their part of the country was unsafe; they consider the report as calculated seriously to affect their interests by interfering with the introduction of capital into their part of the Colony.

I next proceeded to Na Buduka at Nadi. Here I found the chief and leading men had left for Ovalau; the natives declared the interior to be quiet; the people here appear to be in a depressed condition, and at present are living chiefly on cooked unripe bananas, half-grown; they were not possessed of decent clothing, and declared themselves to be unable to pay taxes, as the planters were determined not to give them work unless they would engage for a whole year. I had no opportunity of verifying the truth of this report.

At the next place I called at, Navula, the people were also without money, the so-called "Turaga ni lewa" begging me, in the most abject manner, to buy a shilling's worth of salt, in order that he might not be found entirely without money when the taxes were demanded. This state of affairs I ascribe almost entirely to the total absence of energy on the part of the people, who might make canoes, and thus procure, without much labour, quantities of pearl shell and "beche de mer," for which this neighbourhood is so famous. I also noticed many empty houses, the owners having died during the late epidemic.

I then followed up the coast, landing above Tadola, the plantation of Mr. Thomson Smith, sending the boat on to Luvu, the chief town of Nadroga, and walked along the shore, calling at the residences of various settlers.

Mr. Thompson Smith informed me that an excitement had lately been caused by a Mr. Rennie, who had lately written requesting assistance of the settlers to repel a threatened attack by the natives from inland. The planters having no faith in the report did not, I believe, respond to the invitation of Mr. Rennie. I then proceeded on foot to Cuvu, and found, with difficulty, a local officer, the son of late Roko Tui; Ratu Luki and leading men having left for Ovalau. I requested this officer to send for Ratu Mosese, the cousin of Luki, and any other Chiefs whose attendance might be procurable; they arrived on the following morning, when I informed the meeting of the object of my mission. After some consultation, they told me that the report originated in a misunderstanding on the part of Mr. George Rennie, residing in the village, who, being intoxicated, and having but a slight knowledge of Fijian, had misunderstood a rumour brought by a native; they further stated that Mr. Rennie had, upon hearing this false report, ordered his Tana servants to bring out the muskets belonging to the tribe and deposited in a tobacco store, and had had them loaded to the number of fifty and left in his own house ready for the supposed attack; they further assured me that, although the hill tribes were in a most turbulent state, they themselves did not fear any attack.

I learnt that a number of teachers who had recently gone to a Chief of Naicobocobo, near Koro samiti and Quali mari, had recently had a most narrow escape of being murdered, the people ascribing the late epidemic to the anger of their heathen gods at their recent conversion to Christianity. I requested the native ordained Minister of the district to leave the people to themselves for awhile,

and not to attempt to push Christianity upon them against their wish. I also told the meeting that the Government expressly forbade any attempts of the kind; that religion must be left to the individual will of every person, but that the law must be obeyed; that the Queen had accepted the sovereignty of the Colony by the express wish of the people; that Her Majesty had sent your Excellency to rule the country in her name, and that it was a most unusual thing for a Chief of your Excellency's standing to be sent to rule such a very small country as Fiji, the whole number of inhabitants of which if added together would only equal the population of a small town in Great Britain; that Her Majesty wished the people to be ruled with justice and humanity, but that be ruled it must and would; and that it would be easier for them to attempt to stay the heavy breakers on the beach than to attempt by their insignificant scheming to thwart the benevolent intentions of the Government on behalf of the people. Finding the people had no proper idea of the late visit of the Lands Commissioner, I then explained it, and told them that they would not be placed on reserves, and that they were to pay no attention to idle reports. I then gave them a slight sketch of your Excellency's proposed plan for governing the interior, placing it in a problematical point of view, and asked them if they thought such a plan would be likely to succeed if attempted; the native Minister, a Togan, and a most intelligent man, replied promptly that he believed they would like the plan very much.

I then proceeded on to Mr. Bucknell's place at Korolevu (Serua). The people here appeared to be insolent in character, and Mr. Bucknell assured me he did not feel secure from attack, and that they kept loaded weapons always at hand. Mr. Bucknell is a most hard-working man, doing even common field work himself, in which the three ladies of his family assist; he rises by candle light to work every morning. It is quite impossible that a man of Mr. Bucknell's energy of character should be able to agree with natives who saunter about his place armed in large numbers; quarrels must arise; the natives will feel themselves most unpardonably insulted at times by Mr. Bucknell's apparently harsh conduct towards them; and, altogether, I much fear the most dangerous elements have here been thrown into contact a tribe of arrogant, warlike, hitherto unsubdued savages with a settler of unbending and harsh character, and altogether devoid of tact or knowledge of native language, character, or mode of thought. I here learnt that the Chief of Navola, a village in the vicinity, whose name is "Manumanu i vudi," and now in Ovalau, has great command over the people of the interior, and that his influence extends far inland. As he also was absent on his way to Ovalau, I proceeded on to Serua, thence to Suva, thence to Naitasiri, thence to Bau, and on to Ovalau, arriving on the 1st instant.

In conclusion, I have the honour to state to your Excellency my firm conviction that great trouble will shortly arise in the section of the Colony represented by the hill tribes of Serua and Nadroga, unless action be at once taken in the matter; and also that, although the settlers at Ba and Nadroga express their opinion that no danger exists of an attack on them, yet I am morally convinced that this expression arises less from a real belief in a state of security, than from a feeling that great loss might accrue individually if an opinion should gain ground outside the Colony that might jeopardise the introduction of capital; and I further take upon myself the liberty of suggesting to your Excellency the advisability of calling a meeting of the Chiefs of the hill tribes of Nadroga and Serua as soon as convenient after the return of the Chiefs now assembled at Ovalau; it will be most advisable also that your Excellency preside at this meeting, and have a thorough and most complete understanding as to their future relations with your Excellency's government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WALTER S. CAREW,

Special Commissioner for Ba and Nadroga.

His Excellency the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.,
Governor of Fiji.

No. 6.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(*Received January* 10, 1876.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, September* 10, 1875.

IN Sir Hercules Robinson's despatch of the 20th October, 1874,* a passage occurs with respect to "Lala," and in a Memorandum by Mr. Thurston, inclosed in that despatch, the nature of this tenure is shortly explained. I may observe in passing that in the opinions expressed by Sir Hercules Robinson and Mr. Thurston I entirely concur.

2. I have now the honour to inclose a paper of greater length on the same subject, which will, I think, prove of interest to your Lordship. It is written by Mr. Wilkinson, the chief interpreter, a gentleman who is second to none in knowledge of the people and their customs. His merits were fully recognized by Commodore Goodenough and Mr. Layard, and justly acknowledged by Sir Hercules Robinson in his despatch of the 8th November, 1874.

I agree generally with Mr. Wilkinson in the views expressed by him in this paper.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

Inclosure in No. 6.

"Lala," or Fijian Service Tenures.

THE custom, or rather institution of "lava"-ing men or labourers, and "lavaka"-ing work is, perhaps, from its very comprehensiveness, the most important question that can be considered in connection with native affairs. In some cases it is the thread or chain which runs through Fiji, and connects all its social and political institutions into one body. It is the only custom which changes but little throughout the group. It has existed from time immemorial, was the very bulwark of their mythology, and in one form or other enters into all relationships. It is the indication of what relationships exist between the people and their Chiefs; in fact, it is the keystone of the Chief's government and authority over his people, the channel through which comes his "sinews of war" in times of trouble; and his "ways and means" in times of peace. In other words it is the rent paid by the people for their privileges and the Chief's protection. To deal with it thoroughly in a paper like this would be impossible, because it would simply be a social or domestic history of Fiji. But in order to make the subject as clear as possible to his Excellency, and to describe its character and application generally, it will be best perhaps to confine my remarks to a description of what actually takes place under various circumstances.

1st. The Supreme Chief's Lala.—To commence with the necessaries of life. As the planting season approaches, the Chief may send word to the Chief or Chiefs of an island, district, or town, "I wish my garden planted by you this year;" or, which is equally common, any island, district, or town may send to know the Chief's pleasure, and ask, "may we not plant a garden?" I may remark here that a Chief never exercises the lala (true and proper) over any other than his rightful subjects; not necessarily his own "Qali" only, but all over whom he holds sovereignty and acknowledged authority. Sometimes gardens are planted without the knowledge of the Chief, and when nearly matured formally presented. While such an act indicates loyalty it is not lala, and is often done with some special object. It having been decided to plant (the Chief sometimes selects the exact plot of ground himself), then comes the different operations of clearing, burning, digging, and planting, all of which are duly reported to the Chief, who gives from time to time the necessary orders, and not unfrequently directs the operations in person. In due time the yams have matured, and are ready for digging. The Chief is again sought, and issues his orders. The town probably fixes the day for digging, or rather the day for finishing and housing, or if the Chief has so ordered, for bringing the crop to his own homestead. Before this day the Chief has been making his preparations for receiving them, which will probably be by informing his household, or rather the householders immediately connected with

* No. 11 of C. 1114 of 1875.

his own, that the crop is to be housed on a certain day, and he wishes the housers to have fish or pork to eat, as the case may be. With this information a good deal more is meant than really appears until the day arrives. The Chief prepares the principal portion of the feast, which will be yams or taro, and perhaps turtle. As soon as the housers have finished, and the Chief's oven is ready, the other householders begin to bring in their contributions, which will consist of food (fish chiefly), mats, native cloth, or anything esteemed or scarce with the people who are to receive it. Now these householders have not themselves contributed all they bring, but each will have reported to his or her friends or neighbours, who, as a rule, respond, and what is called "help their friends or relatives." Of course, the Chief's contribution of both food and property will more than exceed all the rest put together. The food and property is then piled in heaps, and, with a number of whales' teeth, is presented to the producers either by the Chief himself or his "Matanivanua" in a short speech, which is generally followed by some order, or general information, or instruction. Opportunities of this kind are seldom lost by a Chief, who generally finishes by showing them the benefits accruing from industry and peace, or of administering some reproof for misconduct to any person or Chief of town present. Being thus dismissed the producers take possession of the food and property, and it is divided between the householders who have assisted towards the entertainment. Of course, by far the larger portions are put aside into the Chief's yam store. There is another kind of Lavaka-ing gardens which ought perhaps also to be described. It may be called the Chief's personal or family garden for the year. He will probably send to a district to say that he wishes the said district to provide the "contents of the yam hills" of his garden, that is the "sets." This messenger does not go empty-handed. The Chief then proceeds to "lavaka" the digging of his garden upon his own particular "Qali's" towns, who clear, dig, and hill up the ground, which may occupy one, two, or three days, according to the size of the ground or number of hands employed. The Chief daily provides the food, but that is all. It is then reported to the Chief of the district that the ground is ready, and as at the first intimation of the Chief's desires, a meeting of the elders of the town is called, they decide the number of yams each man is to contribute, which will probably be one or two, or if it be a very large garden, perhaps three each; this arranged, and the day for planting fixed, the Chief of the district (Buli) dispatches his messenger to say "we come to plant the garden on such a day;" then, as in the other case, provision is made, with perhaps this exception, the Chief does the whole of it himself, though there may be voluntary contributions by some of his people (which are always acknowledged when the yams are dug). The day arrives, the garden is planted amidst general rejoicing by the planters, to whom great license is allowed, and who indulge in witty and sarcastic sayings at the expense of the Chief's own "Qali," giving and answering calls to each others, toasts, and wishing in various forms, success to planting and an abundant year. Then comes the presentation of food and property; the latter greatly exceeds, though plenty of both is expected, and considered Chief-like. I have seen a hundred whales' teeth presented, besides mats, native cloth, &c., in abundance. As before, a speech will be made, orders issued, reproof and advice given on any matter which may effect the general weal. When the planters return to their homes, and if there has been a good supply of food, &c., they spread the news as they go, extolling the Chief's power, greatness, and liberality. And here the Chief has often a special object quite apart from getting his garden planted. Supposing he has reason to believe a district has become disaffected towards him, or disturbed in itself from any cause whatever, he will call them to do that, or some other kind of work, and generally, with the best results, he removes the disaffection, and sends them to their homes well pleased and more loyal than when they came. With very little difference, excepting, perhaps, in detail, and a more limited application, the same system is followed by all Chiefs of inferior grade; such as the Chief's relatives, &c., Chiefs of tribes, down to heads of households, each calling upon his own "Qali," tribes. or family to help him, and making a compensating return to his helpers; and when the Chief has not been up to the mark, in the latter I have known a tribe to appeal to the supreme Chief, saying, "We went laden to plant our Chief's garden, and have returned hungry and empty-handed;" which would result in the said Chief being reproved and exposed, and perhaps the tribe told they need not work for him again unless first remunerated, though the latter privilege would hardly be taken advantage of unless he were not their direct Chief, but from whom

they know they will derive benefits in some other way, which advantage Fijians never lose when opportunity is favourable, even against their own Chiefs. The same system, with nearly all the same arrangements, applies to house building. The work is apportioned out to the several towns or tribes to be engaged. The owner of the house providing food, &c. It is only in some parts of Fiji, or under peculiar circumstances where direct pay is made to housebuilders.

The "lala," as exercised in connection with canoe building, has but slight difference, which, however, have been pointed out as oppressive to the particular town or tribe who provide food for the carpenters, and otherwise attend upon and assist them generally during the building; but it is probable because it is not always known that there is in one way or another a constant drain made upon the Chief by the said towns; and besides benefits they derive from the carpenters living amongst them, they are often exonerated from assistance in other work to which their neighbours are called. The Chief provides the carpenters with tools, &c., and makes periodical gifts to them, or upon the fittings of certain pieces of woods, or the completion of particular parts of the canoe. When finished, the Chief's orders go out that upon a day named the canoe will be launched, the carpenters paid, &c.; when all contribute both food and property, which, when handed over to the carpenters, are divided amongst them according to their grade, or time they may have been employed on the canoe. After launching (that is, if it be a canoe of importance), wherever a new canoe puts in, large quantities of food are presented, amidst general rejoicing, and the Chief who has completed such an undertaking is greatly extolled, and the carpenters praised for the character of the work done. Of course, ropes, sails, and tackling generally, have to be provided, the former is frequently done by the Chief's own immediate retainers, or town's people, and the mats are lavaka-'d over perhaps the Chief's whole territory, each town's portion being named, which is generally 100 fathoms of the narrow matting; and as soon as it is ready is brought in, which may be in about a fortnight after the order has been received, and in due form presented. All the mats are plaited by the women.

The next, perhaps, in order to be considered, and by far the most difficult to describe, is the custom of lavak-ing food for any public occasion, or the visit of Chiefs and strangers from other provinces; and also when a Chief, say a Roko, is travelling through his own province either for pleasure or on the business of the State; in each case, on his arrival in any town, food is at once prepared for him and his followers, the townspeople each contributing their quota. If his visit has been announced, food will be ready cooked awaiting his arrival; then, if his stay be prolonged for a few days, each town in that particular district will contribute their portion for each daily entertainment, and will be "lavaka'd" by the Chief or Buli of the district, who simply sends to each town, saying, "The Chiefs are in our midst, staying at the town of ———." Then, in the case of a Chief or Roko visiting another province, which is generally a previously-arranged matter, and often with a specific object, his intended visit will have been announced, and, it may be, definite arrangements made, as to which towns are to take part in preparing the entertainment, As soon as he arrives, messages are sent out, and the food comes in; generally in such a case the day of the visit is fixed, and, as a Chief never goes to visit another empty-handed, he never returns so. On this day there is a mutual exchange of presents. The guest having handed over his, then receives the return presents. The former are generally divided out to the contributors of food and property, or to those towns upon whom the Roko has been lala-ing during the visit. At such exchanges of civilities between Fijian Chiefs of high rank, large canoes, and other of the most valuable of Fijian property, change hands. The worst feature, probably, of these feasts is, that such a frightful waste of good food generally occurs, because a Chief must always provide more than is necessary, and try to excel his guest, or he loses caste in his eyes and those of his retainers; and when these visits are more of a public or national character the waste and destruction is most deplorable, and I have known, when such a Chief's visit has been prolonged, a district left in a state of want and famine. In dividing the property (that is, presents) of a visiting Chief, it is considered quite a matter of the Roko's or host's own pleasure whether or not he divides a portion as above described to each town or tribe, but it must not be forgotten that all that a Chief possesses is regarded as public property, and is available for such purposes, and generally finds its way amongst his people; and, again, on the other hand, all that is possessed by the people or tribes is regarded by them as really the Chief's, and at his service,

though, of course, questions of polity and the Chief's concern for his people's welfare, and to retain their unbroken loyalty, always influence the exercise of his power or prerogative. Even in the old times, these rights were very seldom exercised to the extreme, and only under peculiar circumstances, or in connection with their mythology. But, excepting perhaps in a few parts of the group, this exercise of extreme power has passed away, and individual property is now respected. The character of a truly good ruling Fijian Chief is consideration for the welfare of his people; to conserve their interest and promote their increase, is his great object and concern; he is the parent or patriarch of his people; and a Chief without these characteristics is called among his fellows "a Chief with but a commoner's heart."

The above appears to be the object and manner in which the "lala" authority is exercised in the usual, ordinary, and regular course of things.

There are, however, a few other instances in which the "lala" authority is exercised, but I think they ought to be called special or extraordinary, and it may be said with some truth, perhaps, to be of recent introduction, but this is only in reference more particularly to its object. The first instance I would describe is "lavaka"-ing work to be done for white settlers, which is generally of two kinds, such as house-building, contract, or plantation work. In one case, a settler goes to the Chief and desires him either to undertake a particular work, or send some town or towns to do it. The Chief allots the work to certain people, who, having performed it, receive through the Chief the full amount paid by the owner; but, in the other case, the Chief takes to himself the whole of the pay, or perhaps a large portion of it, and the people get nothing, or but little (sometimes, in the former case, a Chief may accept a present from the settler when he applies to have the work done, but it has no reference to the payment), and this has been a cause of great trouble and disaffection amongst the people; whereas the other has produced the opposite effect, and has proved a great boon to planters, both at the time of their first settlement and in gathering in their crops, which perhaps mature suddenly, and but for the labour supplied in this way, very great loss would have been the consequence; and this is an arrangement with which the people are well pleased, as a native always likes to feel what he is doing has the approval of his Chief, and he feels also that he is protected from fraud, his Chief being in the capacity of curator, as it were; and people will often refuse to do work, though willing enough to do it, and will refer the white man to their Chief, saying, "If you can arrange with him we will go."

A Chief will often exercise his "lala" authority for some special or public object. His people, or some portion of them want, say, a vessel, or he himself desires to purchase one, and arrangements are made accordingly, the amount and time for it to be raised are all talked over with his elders, and the portions of money or produce to be supplied by each district, when for a time a whole province may become so engaged. This has been a great convenience to Chiefs, and no serious infliction upon the people. But in some parts of the group it has been carried to such excess that often for months the people have been engaged in purchasing something or other for their Chief, or paying a debt for some article or articles he has got from the trader, which, after a day or two's amusement therefrom, he has thrown aside like a toy, while his people have been oppressed and enslaved through his fancies. Another and more commendable instance is, when I have known a Chief raise a whole province to clear an old road, or make a new, and perhaps important one, and in this way fifteen or twenty miles have been cleared in one day.

Another instance, during the late sickness, though it hardly is a case of pure "lala," but exemplifies the exercise of power. The Chief of Bua declared all gardens and food common property, as the people were suffering more from want of food than from disease, many having to go a considerable distance to their own gardens; thus, in a great calamity or public emergency, a Chief could exercise his authority, and it would be responded to by his people, and public good and convenience be conserved thereby.

It is hardly necessary to the present question to describe the exercise of the "lala" in times of war. It is then simply absolute over life and property through the whole community and over all they possess, but indemnities of war paid by the conquered party at the time or after are always divided amongst the warriors.

There are a few instances where "lala" is exercised over particular classes of

the community. Two are worthy of notice, viz, the fishing tribes, and the carpenters, or the canoe-building tribes. Each class considers itself specially and directly under the Chief's immediate command. The fishermen have a large share in preparing for the entertainment of visiting Chiefs, or for large gatherings on important occasions, and the fisherman's share in the divisions of property is always an important one.

Turtle fishing is different from any other kind. A Chief desiring turtle caught sends first a whale's tooth to the tribe with a request that they will put down their net, which means "prepare for turtle fishing." As soon as the canoe with the net on board is afloat, a large present is then made to them, when they proceed to work. The capture of the first fish is rewarded by a whale's tooth and other property, and each succeeding fish by some present, with the addition of a whale's tooth, until the tenth is brought in, when a feast is given by the Chief to the fishermen, and considerable property presented, which ends the fishing for that occasion, unless the Chief wishes more caught, when the same thing is repeated. A Chief generally looks well to his fishermen, and sees that they are properly provided with canoes and other requisites.

Fijian carpenters or canoe builders have been described as the lowest vassals of a Chief; whilst in some respect this may be true, they, nevertheless, possess some very exceptional privileges; and, although they are only supposed to work when and where the Chief consents or directs, they are well paid for what they do, and are well cared for by the Chief himself, or whoever they may work for; but it is next to impossible to get them to do work (canoe building) excepting through their own Chief.

There is just one other form where the rights of exercising the "lala" appears to be recognized, and it is by levying a fine upon any district, town, or tribe, of either labour or produce, for some offence or misdemeanour, such as neglecting to carry out any special order or command of the Roko's, or that of a Buli, or Chief of a town, or for committing any act of violence, evil deed, or the destruction of the property of their neighbours; also for any act of disrespect to their own or other known Chief of rank, for any act of disloyalty, or for any disturbance amongst themselves. Any of those having been proved after inquiry, a fine is inflicted, and the tribe, town, or district, as the case may be, to do a certain amount of work, as road-making perhaps, or pay so much in kind to the Chief, who, if compensation has been awarded to the injured, hands over the amount, and retains the balance for a common or public purpose. I have known in cases of theft, when it was found impossible to discover the culprits, whose continued depredations became a common nuisance, the infliction of a fine upon the district or neighbouring towns, to compensate the losers, not only stop their doings, but, as a rule, lead to the discovery of the perpetrators; as the natives say, with considerable truth, it makes every innocent man a detective. It also acts most salutarily upon neighbouring districts.

The above appears to be the various forms and instances, both regular and extraordinary, where the exercise of the "lala" is considered by natives as right, proper, legitimate, and honourable, to which the people readily respond and submit. This is so much so, that whenever a trial has been made to do away with the "lala" as an institution, a greater difficulty has been experienced with the people than with the Chiefs. The latter say, "If we receive less property we shall simply have less to give away."

His Excellency will see that, in the above descriptions, I have sought to confine my remarks to the exercise of "lala" in its legitimate character, and have not noticed the voluntary and spontaneous contributions of the people to their Chiefs, which is so often spoken against by foreigners, who either do not understand it, or have the impression that it is simply the result of secretly conveyed intimation on the part of a Chief, which is altogether a mistake. Such expressions of sympathy and affection to a Chief are frequent and characteristic, and never pass unrewarded or unacknowledged by him. But it is entirely distinct from the "lala," and is simply and purely the expression of respect and regard the people consider their Chief's due.

Before closing this paper it will, however, be necessary to consider a few instances where the system of "lala" is perverted, or the authority illegitimately used for sinister purposes, or where it is made the cloak for personal aggrandisement; and from these facts, no doubt, arises the cause of much disaffection,

oppression, and evil amongst the people generally, and has led casual or outside observers to condemn the system altogether.

Abuse in the Exercise of Chief's Authority.

The principal abuse is by High Chief's sons, and relatives of the Rokos, perhaps, and Chiefs of lower grades, or their retainers, who go about from place to place levying tribute—or, in other words, black mail—of all kinds of produce or native property, and who are never slow to make use of the Supreme Chief or Roko's name and authority, when such can be done with safety, to secure their object and oppress and impoverish the people. This kind of thing is not called "lala," but "vakasaurara," that is, oppression, or "forcibly taking away," and the perpetrators are called "nai vakacaca," or spoilers. Perhaps the best way to illustrate this will be to give an instance, and the following may be taken as a very general and common one, only varying, of course, in extent or degree, according to the number engaged, or means at their disposal:—

A young Chief will give out that he is going to visit a certain place, for a named purpose, which is always made as plausible as possible. It may be to carry out some previously made arrangement with the Chief or people of the place, perhaps to attend some "solevu" (a reciprocal change of property), or to receive some sail-mats, native cloth, or sinnet. Presents are accordingly prepared, to give in exchange, and when possible the Supreme Chief's sanction is obtained to the proposed visit. As the preparations proceed, the number of the party generally increases, and five or even ten canoes leave where two or three only were intended. The start is finally made, and as they proceed along the coast—in generally very short stages—at every place where they put in food is prepared for them, and a system of begging commences, each appealing to his friend for something to add to his portion of the presents to be presented when they reach their destination. Many of them having probably started without an article, trusting to this resource as they pass along, which party, being a strong one, is generally successful. It not unfrequently happens that the Chief, the head of the party, may have sent to some particular town or district that they are to pass by, saying that he is about to visit such a place, and that he wishes them to help him, and supply some property, naming, probably, some article or articles common to that town or district, which, of course, they accordingly prepare, and I have known a visiting party like this leave their homes without anything at all, but by the time they have got to their destination be well laden.

A messenger will generally have preceded them to announce their coming, so that as soon as they arrive food is presented in great quantities, to provide which the whole district may have been laid under contribution. The day for the exchange of presents or property is generally fixed early, as the hosts do not, as a rule, wish to prolong the stay of their visitors. In the meantime, each individual of the visiting party, from the Chief downwards, has been doing a little business on his own account, as making a private present to some friend or family, which brings, in return, personal supplies of food, and on leaving a like return present.

Of course the great objects of these visits is to enrich themselves, especially the Chief, as in Fiji, property is power; and while they seek to represent that it is fair barter, all sorts of experience are resorted to to obtain the desired object, and when the party is large they are more or less successful.

A very common one s for the visiting party to take offence at some supposed slight to a Chief, inattention, or neglect to comply with a desire, or some ancient and hereditary custom, when the Chief will be told he must punish said offending individual, family, town or towns, as the case may be, and the fine will probably be named as a compensation for the insult. Non-compliance would bring down reprisals upon the Chief, their host,—and his town seldom goes entirely free. But should said Chief himself have a grudge against the supposed offending party, he will probably ask for some assistance from his visitors, which is always readily granted, as such marauding greatly adds to their booty, and scenes of the most inhuman and dissolute character are enacted, under the plea that a Chief's dignity and authority must be supported, no matter at what cost to the commoners. If such visits be at all prolonged, the greatest distress, and even famine, often prevails for months after.

Their return home is much of the same character, wherever they are not

checked by some authority. Fear and consternation precede their approach. They sweep away the animals, food, and property of their people, insulting and dishonouring every domestic tie, and the distress and trouble they leave behind is as the passing over of a scourge or calamity. Surprise may be felt by some that the people submit to such outrage with such apparent indifference; but it must be remembered that, being the action of their own, or, perhaps, other high Chiefs, the fear of retribution checks anything like resistance, even on the part of those not absolutely the subjects of their spoilers, and every subterfuge is adopted to show it to be right and proper conduct in a Chief. It may be said, is not this rather an extreme case? I do not think so; but, on the contrary, such cases have been of common and frequent occurrence, and vary but little, excepting, perhaps, in their extent, that is to say, it may be the act and conduct of a single Chief, or of a Chief accompanied by 200 armed retainers. In any case it is an outrageous abuse of authority, and has no relation to "lala."

Another case may be given, which is, when a Chief, for some cause or other, has got into debt, and is unable to pay, and he adopts one of two expedients, or in some cases both, to raise funds. He "lavaka's" produce of some kind or other. It may be at per head among the males, or so much from each town. In some cases, if the amount be large, a Chief will appeal for assistance to a Chief of another province, who will generally accede to the request. In this way large districts are kept all but exclusively at such work for months, to the neglect of their usual avocations, which, if it occur during planting season, causes gardens to be neglected, and consequently, after the debt is paid, more or less distress prevails amongst the people.

The second case is the "lava-ing" of men to go and work under certain arrangements, say so much per head to be paid to the Chief supplying the men, or, perhaps, the men's wages are hypothecated, and in such cases town and districts have been thinned of all their able-bodied and young men, sometimes for from two to three years. I would here notice that this is different altogether from the ordinary mode of obtaining Fijian labour, where presents are generally made to the Chief, and divided amongst the relatives of the men leaving, when both parties are well enough satisfied. Each of the above forms of "lava-ing" men is of modern origin, and the result of settlement of whites in the Group.

The foregoing is as nearly as possible a description of what is generally supposed to be the institution of "lala," but which, far from being "lala," is in reality simply the arbitrary exercise of authority of Chiefs over the people, an authority probably pure enough originally, but corrupted from time to time by capricious and tyrannical rival Chiefs.

With his Excellency's permission, I would submit the following suggestions on the question of "lala," the entire abolition of which, for the present, at least, I should regard as premature, and likely to involve a vast amount of discontent and trouble. When fully understood, it is not repugnant to civilized forms of government, and, with all its ramifications, is an agency that may be turned to good and useful account in the present and future government of the Group. It is well and thoroughly understood and recognized by the people as their Chief's right. In order to prevent abuses, the system should be a little better defined, and its operation limited. It suits the present condition of the people, and, as far as the Chiefs are concerned, has right and usage on its side. Such customs can hardly be abrogated without some equivalent:—

1st. If all the Chiefs, of whatever grade, were allowed to exercise the right of "lala" over their own particular province, tribes, and Qali only, in all matters of gardens, house-buildings, or domestic requirements, the Chief in each case complying with the conditions understood and fixed by usage, I believe it would tend more to promote the industry of the people than any form of higher civilization that can just now be introduced.

I have heard some of the best and most considerate Chiefs say, "Remove the 'lala' and our people will not only become insolent, but they will soon die out from want, filth, and improvidence. We Chiefs have to care as much for their common wants of every day life as we have for the necessities of the State." It will be well that each Roko be held responsible that the "lala" is not abused by inferior Chiefs in his province.

2. In reference to any person not complying with a "lala," I would suggest that a native district council deal with any refractory individual for disobedience of

local regulations, as such a council is best acquainted with the rights and privileges of both Chiefs and people.

There can be no doubt but such individual cases will arise, and the conduct of one insolent and turbulent fellow, if unchecked, does much harm in a district.

3. The indiscriminate taking away of food and animals by individual Chiefs, or their retainers, is no doubt an evil, and ought not to be allowed. Of course, under the direct authority of the Roko and for public purposes, the case is different, as the people contribute readily.

4. No Chief, of whatever rank, should be allowed to "lala" out of his own province or district, not even when he possesses hereditary or customary rights to do so, though this is a case where some difficulty may arise for a time. But much more serious difficulties are to be apprehended from the allowance of the practice than from its prohibition. A Chief having such rights or privileges in more than one province, can always elect which he will reside in, that is, of course, if he is not an official.

The custom of Rokos helping each other in times of any special effort is open to most serious objections, both from its tending to increase the burdens of the people, and liability to cause jealousy amongst those Rokos not actually engaged.

There is another custom so nearly allied to the above, which is known as begging, but in a Fijian sense it means much more, as the party solicited is not always free to refuse, and a native is always ashamed to refuse to give anything asked of him. For this last reason only they will not unfrequently give, if solicited, all they possess.

It would be difficult no doubt to introduce any prohibitory laws, but a word to the Rokos for them to discourage begging as much as possible will do good, and there can be no doubt the custom will soon die out.

Solevu-ing.

Before closing this paper, the custom of solevu-ing ought perhaps to be noticed; though it does not come under the head of "lala," it is very nearly allied to it, and often calls it forth, and as there are some evils connected with the custom that need correction, perhaps a short description would be best. A Chief or Chiefs, or the people of a province, district, or town, being in want of some articles, will send to those of another province, district, or town, and request them to solevu, naming the articles they are in want of, and perhaps the articles they will bring in return. This being accepted, the day will be fixed, the proposing parties, unless otherwise specially arranged, visit their friends to present their property and receive what is given in return, and both lots are again divided out to the contributors only, so that it will be seen the custom partakes very much of the nature of an ordinary market or fair, and so far there does not appear any objection, but rather the contrary, as it promotes emulation and industry, besides facilitating the interchange of the products of different places. But there are two evils that may be pointed out, and which the Rokos can with little trouble correct. One is the preparation for these solevus so entirely absorbs the time and attention of the people as at times seriously to interfere and obstruct the carrying out of provincial or local regulations; and the second is when the visiting parties prolong their stay, and thereby cause their entertainment to become oppressive to their friends; and this is particularly the case when they live at such a distance as to necessitate their travelling by water, when foul winds may detain them on a coast for weeks together.

(Signed) DAVID WILKINSON.

No. 7.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received January 10, 1876.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, October 1, 1875.*

IN my despatch of the 20th ultimo,* I stated that I inclosed a copy of my speech to the Chiefs. It was not, however, printed in time for transmission, and I have now the honour to forward it, together with an English translation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

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* No. 3.

Inclosure in No. 7.

The Governor's Address to the Chiefs at the Installation Meeting at Bau.

Chiefs now assembled,

AT Levuka last week I read my commission, that is to say, the letter of the Queen of Great Britain appointing me as Governor of Fiji.

You who are now present, you have acknowledged me after the customs of Fiji to-day as ruler of the country; you have promised to obey me in all matters.

I have called you to this meeting in order that we might consult about the country, and that it might be clear what customs shall be lawful and what forbidden.

In former times nothing was stable, but the foundation of the building we are now about to erect shall be firm and strong. The reason why I have not spoken before at Ovalau was because I intend that we shall work steadily and quietly, as one would in travelling over a rough road.

I have called you in order that you should tell me your true minds; do not be deaf to my requests; tell me this day the whole of your ideas with reference to the work of the country; my eyes shall always be upon you.

The laws of the country may be compared to a net of very fine meshes, nothing can escape; it will cover over all alike.

Obey the laws, every one of you.

You the Chiefs, you are the Chiefs of the people, but I again am the ruler of you the Chiefs. Let there be no vain excuses; let scheming practices be for ever abandoned.

I now wish to make some statements. Chiefs, like me, never tell falsehoods, it is a most un-Chief-like practice; all that I tell you shall be perfectly true. The ownership of your own lands is with you, it shall not be taken from you; but if you wish to give away or to sell land, it shall be decided by me whether or not it be sold. I remember the words of the Vunivalu at the time Fiji was offered to Great Britain. He said, "we are being eaten up daily;" now I have come to prevent this.

Some time ago Fiji was offered to Great Britain, on account of its being burthened with debt, also it was in great difficulties in many ways in those days; but Great Britain refused to accept it. Afterwards Fiji was again offered to Great Britain, who then accepted it, but the Queen did not really wish to annex Fiji; at that time it was accepted unwillingly, but the Queen believed it would be right to do so, remembering the words of the Vunivalu, "lest the stalkers about on the coasts of the country eat us up."

The Queen, in her all-loving heart, did not wish that the words of the Vunivalu should prove true; she also disliked much her subjects living without law and order, and each doing what seemed good to him.

On account of these reasons the offer of annexation was accepted, and in order that you should be cared for and led into the proper path. When we compare Fiji with many other countries, it is but a small place after all; nevertheless, a Chief of rank in Great Britain has been appointed to govern Fiji; but if a Chief of less rank, and but little known, had been appointed, it would still have been your duty to respect and to obey him.

Now, Chiefs, you must know that the great Queen has sent me to govern Fiji; but in governing Fiji I shall not act with oppression, or in an unbecoming manner. I shall make all necessary laws for you the natives, and also laws relating solely to the whites; the laws shall be printed soon. Do you have a little patience.

Any useful native customs shall be retained, but improper customs let them be given up; nevertheless I do not intend to make sudden changes.

I shall govern the country in a spirit of justice and mercy, for you must know that laws are necessary; a country without laws would be in a pitiable condition.

The great Queen has taken you to befriend you, and to protect you, for, Chiefs, you know that you could not of yourselves have prevented covetously-disposed persons from taking your land. Now listen to this. The very first law I have made is one forbidding you from selling or leasing land, and forbidding white men to buy it of you without my permission; it may only be sold or leased after my permission has been first obtained. If any person shall disobey this law he cannot obtain the land; his agreement with the owner of the land shall be of no avail.

Now, then, let there be an end of murder and cannibalism; compelling women

to marry against their will is a very great evil, it leads to adultery and to many other great crimes.

Chiefs, I now ask you, I ask all men, do you give me your assistance in this great, this useful labour; as Chiefs let playing at cross purposes cease. Also I do not intend to detract from the respect due to the Chiefs by the lower orders. I believe it to be a most proper thing that we should all of us pay due respect to those above us; let the people continue to pay respect to their Chiefs.

But, Chiefs, on the other hand, do you be just to the people, do not oppress them; if you act harshly to them will you gain the respect of others?

I will now say a few words about "lala." Do you consult together, and come to some agreement amongst yourselves, and let me know this day your minds on this subject; tell me what "lala" you wish to retain, and what you are willing to abandon.

Levy food for yourselves, and for travellers, also house building, and the planting of the Chiefs' food, but upon no account make levies out of your own individual districts; if any one shall act in an oppressive manner, or take property merely for the gratification of the moment, he shall be punished; improper and unfair "lala," idling about and begging for property merely to gratify idle longings, are all things "tambu sara" (most strictly prohibited).

If any person shall resent unjust and improper "lala," he may not be punished for so doing, neither shall anything be done to the man who objects to submit to it.

I again beg of you all to assist me to the utmost of your power in the work of governing the country.

It is now proper that I should speak of some matters referring more especially to yourselves. I mean the jealousy and rivalry existing between you Fijian Chiefs. They exist to a very great extent in Fiji, and are the origin of many and great evils. Now, my good friends, let there be an end of these improper practices. If a number of people are paddling together in the same canoe, and some paddle forwards, and some paddle backwards, what will become of the canoe and its people?

Also I now wish to say something referring to the Magistrates I have recently appointed. I have confidence in them, if otherwise I should not have appointed them to their positions in the Courts of the country. I believe them to be upright men, and of good conduct. Now, Chiefs, be wise; and give them every assistance, support them in carrying out their work, and help them to the full extent of your ability. If you should be perplexed or anxious of mind about matters of difficulty, ask them to assist you, and they will do so; also there are some whites in Fiji with whom it is quite impossible that I could associate, or that I could agree in the smallest matter. Now, be good enough not to associate with them yourselves; decide now whether you will lean on me or lean on them, decide at once. Many people in Fiji are saying "How is this? There is no office of native affairs." I now tell you once for all, I have taken native affairs upon myself as my own task; it is my own individual task alone.

In the law all are equal, whether Chiefs or common people, and no matter what appointment a man may hold under the Government; you must always remember this, every one of you, that if any man is oppressed, or wronged in any way, and it appears to him that he cannot obtain justice in the Courts of his district, let that person come straight to me, or write to me at Nasova, I will not treat his petition with indifference, and this I now most faithfully grant and promise to all people.

I again ask you to give your assistance to the Magistrates, whether they be whites or Fijians, they will then respect you and assist you in a very great many ways.

I now wish to tell you my intentions in the matter of governing the country. Do you, the Roko Luis, and you, the Bulis, never tire of travelling about your districts; as for you, the Bulis, if any sudden evil should arise in your districts, write about it at once; let a true register of births and deaths be kept, and do not allow one to be left unregistered; also write and report on all matters to the Roko Luis. Now as for you, the Roko Luis, do you write to me every month, but, if necessary, write to me at all seasons and at all times.

Now, with reference to taxes, you must follow the old plan for a while longer, but before long it shall be on an entirely different system; in after times it shall be as follows: a piece of land shall be set apart in each district, and shall be called

the "district plantation," and I alone shall then decide what shall be planted, and what shall be suitable to the district; and when the produce is gathered it shall be all taken in to the Government for sale by the owners, and I alone shall fix upon the price to be paid; but if more than sufficient be taken to the Government, it shall then be permitted to the owners to sell the remainder at their pleasure; also there is something else you must do, that is the clearing and formation of roads; any person disliking road clearing, may pay money to the Government in lieu of his work.

I now tell you there are two things of paramount importance, that is, activity and industry; the Vunivalu has said "if the people do not work they will die out," and I am decidedly of the same opinion myself.

Now with reference to the inland districts. It will be the tasks of the Chiefs of tribes there individually to govern their people, and some one shall be appointed to live inland, to preside over the ruling of the interior, to assist the Chiefs in carrying out the law, and to be their preceptor and adviser in all matters. I intend to divide the interior from the coast districts. I shall make the Government work of easy comprehension to the people of the interior, and I shall give greater powers to the Commissioner I intend to appoint than those possessed by the Magistrates on the sea coasts.

Now, Chiefs, he whom I have appointed to the interior is known to you; it is not as though he had but just arrived in Fiji. I now beg of you all, and most particularly of you who have come from Serna, and from Nadroga, do you give him every assistance in your power; I have confidence in him, and I now ask you to pay attention to his counsels.

Now one word to those of you who may be in difficulties through debt. I have made a law preventing your being taken to Court for debt, and I intend to appoint some gentleman to enquire into your affairs, and to look into the justice of the claims against you, that you may rest in peace

With reference to incompatible marriages and adultery, laws relating thereto shall be made as soon as possible; do you have patience for a little while longer.

Now, in the matter of religion and schools, I shall not say much; you have your teachers, who will set forth to you their advantages; for my part I think religion is of the greatest importance to us all, but you must not thrust it on people against their wish. Religion is a subject on which each must decide for himself; we shall all be held individually responsible hereafter at the judgment seat of God. In schools do not allow your children to absent themselves under any pretext, and do you all respect and assist the teachers.

It is now right that I should now tell my mind with respect to the Vunivalu; in former days he was respected only in Fiji, in these days he is respected in all countries. He gave Fiji, in order that his people might rest in peace and plenty; he did not merely consider his own interests. For myself, I have the greatest respect for him, it is my wish that he and I should be of one mind; as one person in all things do you also respect him, and go to him for assistance and advice.

I have now done; do you take my words home to your minds, and may the blessings of Heaven rest with you.

I have now concluded my address to you the Chiefs.

No. 8.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(*Received January* 10, 1876.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, October* 1, 1875.

IN my despatch of the 20th ultimo,* I gave your Lordship some account of my visit to Bau, and reception there.

2. On the day following the ceremonial I have in that despatch described, I was rowed over to the mainland of Viti Levu, and walked across the country to Navuso, on the Rewa River, by a very fair native road, passing the village of Koro Damu-damu and the town of Verata.

3. At Navuso I was the guest of Adi Arieta Kuila, the widow of the late Chief of Naitasiri, and practically the ruler of that extensive district. Her beautiful native house is a very pleasant residence, and she herself is a singularly agreeable, well-

* No. 3.

bred lady. Nothing has given me a higher opinion of the capacities of the Fijians for civilization of their own type than the position which women of high-class assume. Adi Kuila is, perhaps, rather an exception, as she lectures with keen tongue the gravest elders of her district; but all the ladies of high rank move with a freedom, and express their opinion and wishes with a decision, which shows them to possess a large amount of independence, and to command a high degree of respect.

4. Before leaving Bau I had witnessed a school examination and dance, which was in many ways a scene of great interest. The children were assembled under the shade of great trees, which formerly gave shelter to a heathen temple. On the stones, where hundreds had been put to death, were seated Cakobau and his wife, Adi Lydia. Hardly anything could have more forcibly marked the difference between the past and present, between Christian and cannibal Fiji. And yet the change did not consist in an aping of European manners, for all that passed was thoroughly real and thoroughly national. The children were all dressed in Fijian style, some with scarves and girdles of beautifully fine tappa, others in coloured likus or sulus, and they danced their own dances with spirit and enjoyment, whilst their lessons were chanted after the fashion of a Fijian meke. Their reading was fair, their writing very good, and of their arithemetic I did not remain to see much.

5. Here, too, at Navuso I was a witness to a school-feast of about 250 children, of whom a large proportion could read with ease, write extremely fairly, and cypher very fairly. The interest of this exhibition was chiefly in the fact that it was so purely native—teachers, minister, and all spectators, except myself and my staff, being Fijians.

6. I cannot believe myself that it is a thing to be desired that this interesting and intelligent population should be simply swept away from their own land, to make room for adventurers who will merely come here for a few years as to a possible field for money-making.

7. From Navuso I came down the River Rewa, a river totally out of proportion to the size of the country, to Navuloa, the Mission College. This establishment, though originally intended as a training institution for native missionaries, has gradually expanded into a species of public school, where the sons of Chiefs are educated. Few people are aware how large a portion of the Fijian population can read and write their own language, but at Navuloa the students are taught English, and it is from this institution that I hope, before very long, to draw a supply of good interpreters, the want of whom is now very seriously felt.

8. I only remained one night at Navuloa, and returned home by water the following day, the numerous band of scholars accompanying me to the shore, and singing "God save the Queen" in English most lustily as I stepped into my boat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

No. 9.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(*Received January* 10.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, October* 20, 1875.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 10th ultimo,* I have the honour to inclose the copy of a letter addressed to me by Mr. James Mason, a Justice of the Peace for the island of Taviuni, respecting the present state of the southern part of the island of Viti Levu, lately visited by him.

2. The picture drawn by Mr. Mason is, I think, not a little exaggerated. The man, Fox, of whom he speaks, is a notorious alarmist; and there can, I fear, be no doubt, that he and a considerable number of the white settlers in his neighbourhood wish to bring about a collision which will eventually lead to the destruction of the tribes who now occupy the extensive and fertile plains of the Sigatoka. Those great tracts of rich lands will thus, they think, be rendered easy of acquisition. Nor will it be easy to dispute the defective titles which they have obtained from the late Ratu Kini of Nadroga, of lands over which he exercised no shadow of authority, and to the property of which he had no claim.

* No. 5.

3. A well-known resident at the mouth of the Sigatoka, James Byrne by name, Mr. Fox's next neighbour, who only left that district several days after the visit of the "Pride of Viti," was with me to-day, and informs me that the alarming stories reported at the close of Mr. Mason's letter was almost groundless. I also inclose an extract of a private letter just received from Mr. Carew, which points to good deal of exaggeration.

4. Nevertheless, making every deduction for the influence of fear, cupidity, and credulity, and for that of the pleasure of circulating alarming tales, there remains sufficient to cause a very considerable degree of anxiety.

5. It is my own intention to visit this district very shortly, and Mr. Carew is now making arrangements for a meeting there between me and the Chiefs of the interior. If peace can be preserved up to that time I have little doubt of its permanent maintenance; and that it will be preserved I have every confidence, unless steps are taken by some of the lawless white settlers—Americans—to force on a collision.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 9.

Your Excellency, *Carnarvon House, Levuka, October* 16, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, during a recent trip in the paddle-wheel steamer "Pride of Viti," to the Sigatoko River, Viti Levu, we found it unadvisable to penetrate the interior of the country, owing to the following circumstances:—

On the 9th instant we landed at Mr. Bucknell's plantation, about twelve miles from the Sigatoko River.

He told us that a few days previously, a large number of mountaineers fully armed had surrounded his house, but had retired without molesting him.

In the evening of the same day, we anchored in a small bay, about half-a-mile from the mouth of the river, and as James Burns (an old Colonist with whom we wished to ascend the river) was absent from home, Mr. Page, the Master of the steamer, called on Patrick Fox, who lived in the bay. On Mr. Page's return on board, he gave us such an alarming account of Fox's fears that Sub-Lieutenant Ommaney, Her Majesty's ship "Barracouta," went with me the same night to see Fox. He reported that for several nights and days he had kept watch with armed Fijians, as the mountaineers had threatened to burn his house and crops. That they had already done considerable damage to some maize, and that he was in fear of his life. He begged us to make a report of this.

The next morning we steamed to Nadroga to see Ratu Luki, Chief of the district, accompanied by whom we next day ascended the river about two miles to the Sigatoko town.

After a consultation with his people, he told us that it was not safe to go up the river, as the natives in the towns one mile further up had thrown off their cloth, &c., and that he did not care to lend us canoes or men to go with us.

About 11 o'clock the same night a messenger brought a note from Fox, stating that he had buried his goods, as he had again heard that the mountaineers were coming. On being interrogated by Mr. Page, the messenger said that a large number of men had that day come down from the mountains, and were staying for the night at a town about one mile from us.

We therefore relinquished the object of our trip, and returned to Levuka.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAMES E. MASON.

His Excellency the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

Inclosure 2 in No. 9.

Extract of a Letter from Mr. Carew to Mr. A. Gordon, dated October 18, 1875.

THE Sigatoka people appear to be in a disturbed state, but rumours both of natives and whites are evidently much exaggerated. A man named Meader, a

citizen of the United States, is always in hot water with them. He reports that they have just dug up all his sweet potatoes, and taken away all his corn. I am going to get an interview with these natives to-morrow, I trust. I have to wait now until I hear from them in answer to a message I have sent them. If I succeed in getting an interview with them, I am confident of being able to put an end to these troubles, but this man Meader is a notorious blackguard, an "old hand" from the Line Islands.

When I get this investigation over at Meader's place, I shall send a report up to his Excellency. I think a partner of Meader's named Fox has been shooting lately at the natives.

No. 10.

Governor the Hon. Sir. A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received January 10, 1876.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, October 30, 1875.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose for your Lordship's information the Schedule of establishments to which I have found it necessary to give a provisional sanction.

2. It was, of course, my desire to adopt the Schedule of establishments inclosed in your Lordship's despatch of the 20th March ;* or, if any departure from it were absolutely unavoidable, to confine such departure within extremely narrow limits.

3. But this I found to be altogether impracticable. It was very soon made perfectly clear to me that under two heads of establishment large increases were at once absolutely requisite, and not to be avoided, and that some necessary appointments had been overlooked in some other branches of the service. This being the case, I thought I should best consult the public interest and your Lordship's wishes not by adherence to the strict letter of the Schedule forwarded by your Lordship, but by so recasting it as to bring down the aggregate expenditure to the lowest figure.

4. In this I have not been wholly unsuccessful, although I have introduced the posts which were, I believe, accidentally omitted, for I have contrived so to keep down the aggregate amount of the salaries in all the Public Departments (excepting the two to which I have referred), that they only exceed by 259*l.* the amounts either set down in the Schedule or subsequently sanctioned by your Lordship. Had it not been for what I believe to be an oversight in the preparation of that Schedule, which I will explain in the proper place, there would, as regards these nine heads, actually have been a saving to the extent of 291*l.* on the amount sanctioned by your Lordship.

5. But under two heads of establishments, "Judicial," and "Police and Gaols," there has, I regret to say, necessarily been a very large excess. A part of this excess also is, however, in some degree, apparently due to accidental oversight.

6. I will now consider separately each head of establishment.

I.—*The Governor.*

7. Under this head there has been no alteration of what has already been sanctioned by your Lordship.

II.—*The Colonial Secretary.*

8. I have, on the whole, judged it expedient to abolish the separate Department of Native Affairs, and to commit this charge to the Colonial Secretary. My reasons for this course I have explained at length in another despatch. This has necessitated the employment in the Colonial Secretary's Office of a clerk, able to speak and write Fijian, in addition to the two sanctioned by your Lordship.

9. I have temporarily united the Office of Colonial Secretary with that of Receiver-General, and I am inclined to think that it will be for the advantage of the public service that they should continue united for some time to come.

III.—*Receiver-General's Office.*

10. Sir Hercules Robinson, in his despatch No. 7 of the 16th October, 1874, pointed out that one of the advantages of the temporary appointment of

* No. 7 of C. 1337 of 1875.

Mr. Horton as Colonial Treasurer was that he was able to employ the services of the clerks in the Fiji Bank. The power of doing this of course ceased when the manager of the Bank ceased to be Colonial Treasurer. This fact, however, appears to have been overlooked in the preparation of the Schedule inclosed in your Lordship's despatch No. 1, as it was by me in the preparation of the draft Schedule, on which that contained in your Lordship's despatch is founded; and no provision is made for clerical or other assistance to the Treasurer beyond the "Accountant," already Mr. Horton, when aided by his Bank clerks.

But, more than this, although the office of Collector of Customs was combined with that of Treasurer, the clerical assistance which had been sanctioned by Sir Hercules Robinson for the Customs Department was omitted; and the Receiver-General, with largely-increased duties, was actually left with less assistance than that allowed previously, in addition to the extraneous aid of the Bank clerks. This must, I think, have been accidental.

11. The first Clerk of Customs, who is the late Collector of Customs, is also Shipping-Master, an appointment rendered necessary by the proclamation of Levuka as a port of registry. The second Clerk acts as bond-keeper, and the third is for general service.

12. After the most rigid scrutiny several times repeated, I can come to no other conclusion than that the Customs dues and other revenue could not possibly be collected with a smaller staff, and that the omission of any one of them would lead to the loss of an amount of revenue far greater than the amount of his salary.

13. The Harbour-Master and Light-Keeper have, for convenience, been placed on this item of establishment, at the salaries sanctioned in your Lordship's Schedule.

IV.—*Audit Office.*

14. The duties thrown upon the Colonial Secretary rendered it necessary to provide otherwise for the discharge of audit duties. The Auditor-General may be said to have taken the place, as a separate officer, of the Secretary for Native Affairs, and receives the same salary that that officer would have done.

This Office is one in which the assistance of a clerk is manifestly necessary.

V.—*Surveyor-General's Office.*

15. This Department has been created by your Lordship's directions since the preparation of the Schedule.

VI.—*Post Office.*

16. I found it impossible to reduce, as had been contemplated, the salary of the Colonial Post-master. The responsibilities of the office are considerable, and its work terribly irksome, involving, in the absence of any assistance, daily constant attendance at the Post-Office. No one above the rank of a police constable would have accepted it at a lower rate than that hitherto attached to the office.

VII.—*Lands Commission and Immigration Offices.*

17. The Commissioner of Lands and Agent-General of Immigration presides over two very distinct Departments, in each of which a clerk, who has responsible duties to perform, is imperatively requisite. I should have assigned a salary of 200*l.* to each of them, had it not been that Mr. Bentley, who had hitherto acted as Protector, was already in receipt of a salary of 240*l.*, which I could not well diminish.

18. It is manifest that if immigration assumes any large proportions, the expenses of this Department must increase, for the appointment of Inspectors will become absolutely necessary, if, indeed, it is not so already.

VIII.—*Medical.*

19. A provisional and temporary addition of 50*l.* above the amount sanctioned by your Lordship, made to the salary of the Government Medical Officer for the Eastern Islands, Dr. Mayo was undoubtedly led to expect that his salary would be equal to that of Dr. MacGregor, nor would he accept of less.

20. The circumstances of the time when I arrived here would have compelled

me at all events to appoint an Assistant Medical Officer here. At such a moment it was impossible to contemplate the Chief Medical Officer invariably tied to the town of Levuka, which his duties as Health Officer of Shipping prevented him leaving for a single day.

21. But, apart from this, I felt that it would be a most ungracious and ungrateful return for Dr. Cruikshank's unwearied services during the measles, and would produce the worst possible effect in the Colony if he were to be, on my arrival, suddenly dismissed from the public service. I therefore retained him at the very moderate salary of 150*l*. He acts as Health Officer in Dr. MacGregor's absence, and attends the dispensary.

IX.—*Provincial.*

22. The salaries of the native Chiefs remain as on your Lordship's Schedule. I have not, however, made any appointment to the Government of the Central Province vacant by the death of Ratu Savenaca, nor do I intend to do so. The administration of this Province, in which Ovalau is situated, I have taken into my own hands. A saving of 240*l*. is thus effected, and in its working I shall gain considerable insight into the native system of administration.

Under these nine heads, therefore, the total expenditure stands thus:—

	£
As sanctioned by your Lordship	11,720
	350
	12,070
Present schedule	12,329
Excess of present estimate over that already sanctioned	259

23. But, as I have before observed, it cannot have been intended that the duties of the Treasury and Custom-house were to be performed, as to the former branch, by simply an accountant, without the aid of a single clerk, and in the latter without any assistance at all. If, however, it be the case that this omission (as that of the Attorney-General's clerk appears to have been) was an accidental one, and it be further assumed that the moderate salaries of these officers could not well have been reduced below what had been allowed them by Sir Hercules Robinson, the account would stand thus:—

	£
Amount sanctioned by your Lordship	11,720
	350
	200
	150
	150
	12,570
Present schedule	12,329
Reduction in present schedule below that contained in Despatch No. 1 ..	241

24. When, however, I turn to the items "Judicial" and "Police," the case is widely different. Here, too (though, I think, a portion of the excess is due to a misapprehension in the preparation of the Schedule), it could never have been intended that the Supreme Court should be without a Registrar or a Bailiff; nor can it ever have been intended that the Chief Justice should also perform the duties of a Police and Stipendiary Magistrate. I, therefore, anticipate no objection to the addition of these posts.

25. I did not pause to refer to your Lordship on this point, because, in the interval, the administration of justice would have inevitably come to a dead lock. The Chief Justice would, I know, have absolutely refused to sit until the proper officers of his Court were appointed; whilst even if he had been persuaded to acquiesce in taking his seat on the Bench without a Registrar or Bailiff, he would most certainly have refused to sit as Police Magistrate even for the shortest time.

Moreover, it was desirable that the alteration, if inevitable, as it clearly was, should be made at once; and that the Supreme Court should begin with the same staff with which it was intended to continue. It would have been pedantry on my part to have thrown the administration of justice into confusion in order to adhere to the letter of an instruction, which was in the circumstances inapplicable; which

clearly could not be maintained; and the effect of which had probably not been contemplated.

26. I have, in consequence of the Attorney-General's abandonment of private practice, thought him entitled to an advance at the rate of an additional salary of 250*l.* per annum. This I have, up to this time, paid him out of my private funds; but I propose to place it on the Estimates as a provisional and temporary increase, pending a reply from your Lordship to my despatch of the 9th July, 1875.

27. In the Schedule forwarded by your Lordship the following words appear, "Native Judge, 120*l.*" Ratu Marika Toroca is an excellent and much respected Chief, and I should have been glad to have continued to him a title which he himself valued, and his possession of which was, I think, esteemed by his fellow-countrymen. But the Chief Justice refused, in the most positive terms, to commence his duties if any native were allowed to retain such a title; and, rather than incur the scandal of a dispute on such a point, I waived the question, and have appointed Ratu Marika "Chief Native Magistrate," at his former salary. I will not say that he does not feel the degradation, or that it is not felt by others of his race,—but he has made no complaint respesting it.

28. The salary of the Police Magistrate and Registrar-General (500*l.*) appears large, and is so. The circumstances which have led to the proposal of such a sum are these:—It was thought by the Chief Justice, by the Members of the Executive Council, and myself, that it was highly desirable to retain the services of Mr. Garrick, probably the only really properly qualified man in the Colony for this duty. Mr. Garrick's services, however, could only be secured by allowing him to retain the salary he had hitherto received. This was felt to be excessive for the office of Police Magistrate; and it was accordingly determined that Mr. Garrick should also undertake the duties of Registrar-General; a post, the retention of which by the Colonial Secretary after the usurpation by that officer of the duties of the Treasury. Mr. Garrick accordingly receives 350*l.* as Police Magistrate, and 150*l.* as Registrar-General.

29. In the Schedule sent out by your Lordship, it was contemplated that the Judges Clerk and the Interpreter of the Supreme Court should be the same person. It has very truly been pointed out to me that the qualifications for these two offices are entirely different.

30. Your Lordship has, by your despatch of the 12th August, sanctioned the appointment of a Clerk to the Attorney-General, at a salary of, if necessary, 150*l.* per annum. This I had ventured to anticipate.

31. I thought, at the time of their appointment, that the duties of Clerk and Interpreter to the Police Court could not be combined, but I am now not so certain that this is the case. If it be found possible to unite these offices, it shall be done.

32. I found it imperatively necessary to increase the number of Stipendiary Magistrates. On this subject there were incessant and well-founded complaints. A single Magistrate had charge not only of the great Island of Vanna Levu,—an island 120 miles in length,—but also that of Taviuni, where there is a larger number of settlers than any other part of Fiji, and itself an island of very considerable size. Another had and still exercises jurisdiction over the whole of the windward islands. A third professed to administer justice along ninety miles of Viti Levu, and in the distant island of Kadavu. Even under any circumstances, there would have been an imperative necessity for at once increasing the number of Stipendiary Magistrates; but I found an additional reason in the worse than inefficiency of the Justices of the Peace, who, in the absence of the Stipendiary Magistrates, exercised large powers. A perusal of their books, where they kept any, speedily convinced me that the reduction of the powers of the Justices of the Peace was a necessity; and an additional reason was thus afforded for increasing the number of Stipendiary Magistrates without delay.

I should, however, have waited to effect this augmentation if it had stood alone. As it was, being compelled to make many changes in the scheme originally designed, I saw no reason to postpone a reform already too long delayed.

33. The number of Stipendiary Magistrates was gradually increased from twelve to eighteen by Sir Hercules Robinson.

34. The circumstances connected with the appointment of a Commissioner for the mountains inhabited by the "Kai Colo" will be found detailed in another despatch.

X.—*Police and Gaols.*

35. The increase under the head "Police and Gaols" is also considerable.

The salary of the Superintendent could not possibly be kept at 200*l.*,—he would have had to return to his profession; nor could any one else, fit to discharge the duties of the office, have been secured for such a sum.

The salary of the Clerk has been reduced for the present to 50*l.*, he being also my private interpreter.

36. An increase in the pay of the Gaoler, a most efficient officer, was found to be indispensable, and I availed myself of the opportunity of making him Sub-Inspector to give it indirectly, rather than as an augmentation of salary of his post.

37. Sub-Inspectors for Viti Levu and Vanna Levu were imperatively required,—the force there being almost wholly without control; and a Detective Sub-Inspector has been taken on the strength of the force here.

The number of European Constables (still far too small) has been doubled, and the sum to be voted on account of European Constables is thereby necessarily doubled; at the same time I have also added fifty men to the force. I had intended and should wish to add 100, but refrained for the present from doing so.

The gaoler at Lavoni I have been enabled to dispense with, the gaol at that place having been abolished.

38. Your lordship will not be surprised by this augmentation, for I remember that it was your Lordship's opinion, before I left England, that I should be compelled to strengthen the Police force materially.

39. These two departments, Judicial and Police, then stand thus:—

	Old Schedule.	New Schedule.
	£	£
Judicial	3,168	6,148
	150*	
	3,318	
Police	1,870	3,205
	5,188	9,453
Excess of new schedule . .	£4,265	

Or, if it be assumed that the Police Magistrate, Registrar, and Bailiff were omitted in the same manner as the Attorney-General's Clerk, and ought to be included in the old schedule, we shall have,—

	Old Schedule.	New Schedule.
	£	£
	3,168	6,148
	150	
Judicial	350	
	240	
	100	
	4,008	
Police	1,870	3,205
	5,878	9,453
Excess	£3,575	

At the same time, heavy as the cost of these establishments is, I believe they will contrast favourably with any other attempt of a similar character; nor must it be forgotten that, if we attempt to govern at all islands of great size and large population (exceeding that of Trinidad), it is essential that the machinery should exist for making that Government a reality.

40. In conclusion, it is my duty to report to your Lordship that, although the establishments have already exceeded my wishes and your instructions, I foresee that it will be absolutely impossible to refuse to augment them, under one head, at no distant day.

* Subsequently authorized

41. There is at present absolutely no postal system whatever within the Group. The post office at Levuka is the only one in the whole Colony; and the complaints of the settlers on the Rewa, and in Taviuni, Kadavu, the Nadi coast, and elsewhere, are loud and increasing, nor can I say that they are unreasonable.

The Medical department again requires extension. It is ridiculous to suppose that two or even three medical officers can supervise so many populous islands, at great distance apart, or secure the performance of vaccination or quarantine.

If the revenue is not to be systematically defrauded, Custom-house officers must be appointed at all the ports of entry.

The judicial staff is still far from adequate, and four, or at least two more, Stipendary Magistrates will ere long have to be appointed. This may be for the present delayed, but Clerks of the Peace it will be needful to appoint without loss of time.

The Immigration Office will need reinforcement by the appointment of Inspectors of Immigrants.

42. Nor must I conceal from your Lordship the fact that, instead of obtaining that ready and zealous service which is the result of content, there are but few public servants who are not more or less sullen and discontented on account of the smallness of their salaries. I am quite aware that these salaries cannot be increased in the present position of the Colony, nor do I advocate it; but I cannot deny that the cost of living is in Levuka enormous, and that the salaries given, from the highest to the lowest, are quite inadequate to the necessary expenses of the recipients. Your Lordship will readily imagine that this state of things does not diminish the difficulties of my position.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 10.

COLONIAL Estimates.—Establishments.

Establishments Detailed.	Fixed Establishments.	Provisional and Temporary.	Total.
	£	£	£
Civil Salaries.			
His Excellency the Governor	5,000		
Private Secretary	300		
Aide-de-camp	170		
Private Interpreter	150		
	5,620		
Less returned by his Excellency to Treasury	2,000		
			3,620
Colonial Secretary's Office.			
Colonial Secretary and Receiver-General		500	
First Clerk and Clerk of Council		250	
Second Clerk		200	
Third Clerk		150	
			1,100
Receiver-General's Office.			
Clerk of the Treasury		200	
First Clerk of Customs and Shipping Master		250	
Second Clerk and Bondkeeper		150	
Third Clerk		150	
2 Boarding officers, at 150*l.*		300	
Harbour Master		200	
Light-keeper		50	
			1,300
Audit Office.			
Auditor-General		500	
Clerk		200	
			700
Survey Office.			
Surveyor-General		350	350

Establishments Detailed.	Fixed Establishments.	Provisional and Temporary.	Total.
	£	£	£
Post Office.			
Colonial Postmaster	..	250	250
Commissioner of Lands and Agent-General of Immigration.			
Commissioner	..	500	
First Clerk	..	240	
Second Clerk	..	200	
			940
Medical.			
Chief Medical Officer	350		
Government Medical Officer for Eastern Islands	300	50	
Assistant Medical Officer	..	150	
	650	200	850
Judicial.			
Chief Justice	1,000		
Attorney-General	500	250	
Police Magistrate and Registrar-General	..	150 and 350	
Chief Native Magistrate	..	120	
Registrar, Supreme Court	..	240	
Interpreter	..	200	
Judges Associate and Clerk	..	200	
Clerk to Attorney-General	..	150	
Clerk to Police Court	..	150	
Interpreter, ditto	..	150	
Bailiff	..	100	
4 stipendiary Magistrates, at 300*l.*	..	1,200	
4 ditto, at 250*l.*	..	1,000	
18 Native Magistrates	..	288	
Commissioner for Interior	..	100	
	1,500	4,648	6,148
Police and Gaols.			
Superintendent	..	300	
Clerk	..	50	
Gaoler and Sub-Inspector	..	250	
1 Sub-Inspector	..	200	
3 ditto, at 150*l.*	..	450	
1 Sergeant	..	125	
8 European Constables, at 105*l.*	..	840	
2 half-caste Constables, at 75*l.*	..	150	
1 Warder to gaol	..	90	
250 Native Constables	..	750	
			3,205
Provincial.			
Roko Tui Law	..	600	
„ Cakaudron	..	360	
„ Tai Leow	..	340	
„ Bua	..	320	
„ Macuata	..	320	
„ Rewa	..	200	
„ Kadaru	..	200	
„ Nadroga	..	100	
„ Ra	..	100	
„ Ba	..	100	
„ Namosi	..	140	
Native Bules	..	639	
			3,219
			21,682

No. 1.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(*Received January* 10, 1876.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, October* 30, 1875.

ONE of the most important questions which I have had to consider since my arrival here is the degree and measure in which native laws and customs should

be preserved in force, and how far English law should be at once generally introduced.

2. Under the former Fijian Government, there was a distinct and separate system of native law, which, as regards many matters, was recognized by positive enactment, and in the remainder was regulated by traditional usage. Since annexation, the laws of New South Wales alone have, strictly and technically speaking, been in force; but, practically, the native code has received a tacit, and indeed more than tacit, recognition.

3. One of Sir Hercules Robinson's first acts after the cession was to direct the issue of a circular to the Stipendary Magistrates enjoining on them an entire absence of interference in all native cases except those of certain specified grave crimes cognizable by the Central Court. The preliminary proceedings in these cases were to be conducted by them in conjunction with a native Stipendiary Magistrate. All other cases purely native were to be left to the native Magistrates alone, to be decided by them according to their own law and custom, though under the observation of the European officer.

4. I entirely concur with Sir H. Robinson as to the prudence and justice of the adoption of such a course; but if English law be now generally introduced without qualification, I could hardly repeat his action, for such directions as those to which I have referred would have no legal validity whatever, and the Supreme Court would of course take no notice of any such illegal order.

5. What then is to be done? and which of the three following courses is to be adopted?

Is the whole body of English law to be imposed on all the population of the Colony alike—on the hundred thousand coloured subjects of Her Majesty—equally with the white residents?

Is the English law to be nominally imposed, but with a power vested in the Courts of modifying it in each case according to circumstances?

Or, is there to be a distinct code of laws applicable to natives alone?

6. No sane man could, I think, seriously maintain the first proposition. It could be defended only in the narrow and pedantic spirit which a century ago led to the attempted enforcement of all the peculiarities of the English law upon the people of Bengal. The results of that attempt are well known, and have been painted by a master's hand.

No one now fails to perceive that the experiment was both unsound in principle and dangerous in practice; but at the time there were not wanting men of abiiity and great legal attainments who deplored its abandonment, and maintained that it was for the advantage of the Hindoo himself that he should, at whatever risk, or at the cost of whatever suffering, be at once brought under the operation of a law which was regarded as well-nigh perfect and of universal applicability. The confusion which must follow the sudden revolution of deep-rooted habits would, it was argued, right itself in at most a few generations; the chance of insurrection, it was said, if foreseen, might be guarded against.

Fortunately for India, these views did not prevail. Greater weight will not, I trust, be allowed to them in Fiji.

7. Not only would the imposition in all respects of English law be inequitable, but it would, I am convinced, be altogether impracticable to enforce obedience to it, and any serious attempt to do so would, I have not the smallest doubt, cause an insurrection, the limits of which it would be difficult to define, and the suppression of which would cost an immense sum of money, and would render necessary the adoption of measures which would probably result in the extinction, at no distant date, of the whole native race.

8. Practically, then, the alternative lies between exclusively European Courts and exclusively English law, modified in its administration by a consideration of native customs in each particular case, or a recognized native code, in addition to the general law, and subsidiary to it.

Of these two methods, I can have no hesitation in preferring the latter. Not to dwell on other considerations, there are three objections to the former project, any one of which, it appears to me, ought to be fatal.

9. In the first place, the exercise of this discretion would of course rest exclusively with the European Judges, and the native Chiefs and Magistrates would be deprived of all share in the administration of justice. This is most undesirable.

They would be rendered idle and consequently discontented; they would be degraded in the eyes of those who have hitherto looked up to them, and by whom it

is most desirable they should still be looked up to, with deference and respect, for so long as the native population outnumbers the European by fifty to one, it is through these Chiefs that the country will be most peaceably, cheaply, and easily governed; and I observe that in those districts where, for one or another cause, the Chiefs have lost their hold on the people, the administration of affairs is attended with a difficulty and confusion unknown elsewhere.

They would, not improbably, plot to recover their lost power, and, from being docile and useful instruments, would become a constant source of trouble and even danger.

This your Lordship has already foreseen, and with much wisdom observed, in your despatch of the 22nd March,* that it will probably be necessary to permit the native chiefs to retain in their hands for some time longer the judicial powers they at present possess.

10. In the next place, although such a discretionary power as that which would in this case be left in the hands of the Court would perhaps suffice for defensive purposes, it would be available for defensive purposes alone, that is to say, although the Court might admit evidence of native customs as excuse for acts in themselves irregular, illegal, or even criminal, it would certainly not do so in support of a prosecution in aggravation of penalties already legally fixed, or as rendering culpable acts which are not forbidden by English law. Consequently, many misdemeanours, which are serious offences according to native usage, and which it is desirable should, at all events for the present, continue to be so regarded, would altogether escape punishment. This fact is, in itself, enough, to my mind, to condemn the scheme.

11. The third objection is the element of entire uncertainty which such a system would introduce in the administration of justice. How far the strict interpretation of the English law should be modified by native custom would, in each case, rest with the Judge himself. Even in the Supreme Court itself a change in the person of the Chief Justice might produce an entire change in the canons by which this discretionary modification was governed, whilst in the inferior courts it is not too much to say that there would be daily instances of totally different decisions of similar cases, according to the temper, knowledge, and prejudices of each stipendiary magistrate.

Now if there is one thing about the unknown and much-dreaded law of the foreigners which the Fijians fear more than another, it is the uncertainty of its operation, of which they have already seen some startling instances; and nothing can be conceived more calculated to increase that uncertainty to the highest point than a system of law to be administered, not as it stands written, or as it would be applied in the case of whites, but with such deviations as in each case the Court, according to its own appreciation of native usages, and the greater or less degree of respect with which it may be disposed to regard them.

12. If it be determined to adopt the third course suggested, it will become a question how far such a native code as is contemplated should exist concurrently with British law, or in exclusion of it, as regards natives, and to what class of cases its operation should extend.

I believe that all criminal offences of any gravity, with, perhaps, a few trifling exceptions, might be at once brought under the operation of English law, whilst what may be called police cases might be left to be dealt with by the native officials, subject to a reference to the European magistrate of the district, if desired by either party to the case.

In civil cases, however, our law would often be wholly inapplicable, and there are many matters of much interest to the natives with which it does not deal at all.

13. I propose to provide for this latter class of cases by the constitution of a species of Council or Board for Native Affairs, consisting of some half-dozen gentlemen best acquainted with the native laws and customs, and that this Council should be empowered to make regulations and bye-laws which, when approved by the Legislative Council and assented to by the Governor; should have the force of law, subject, of course, to your Lordship's disapproval.

The members of this Board should, I think, like the members of the Legislative Council, be unpaid.

14. It may be objected that no bye-laws affecting grave matters already dealt with by statute law could be passed by such a Board; and this, no doubt, is

* No. 8 of C. 1337 of 1875.

perfectly true; but a means would be afforded by it of dealing with innumerable matters, small in themselves but of great moment to the natives, and the regulation of which, under the sanction of penalties, is, in my opinion, not only necessary to the proper working of their village and tribal system, but also essential to the maintenance of the very existence of the native race.

15. Matters of graver moment will have to be dealt with separately by the Legislative Council.

It will, for example, probably be necessary to adopt a Native Marriage Ordinance, and an Ordinance for regulating the devolution of native property, &c.; and many of the provisions of the Article XXXVIII of King Cakobau, passed by the so-called Parliament of Fiji, might, I think, with great advantage, be re-enacted.

16. Of this Act and of the laws of the Lau Tovatu, which, although not legally, are practically still in force in the eastern part of the Group, I inclose copies. I regret that I cannot obtain, to forward to your Lordship, a spare copy of the laws of Tonga.

Under them a population not naturally less indolent than those of Fiji are becoming, not only generally prosperous, but wealthy, and I suppose that hardly any country exists where ease and comfort more generally prevails among all classes. This result has been obtained by a judicious modification of the native laws, some of the most salutary of which—for example, that which compels every man to do a certain amount of agricultural work for his own profit—are hardly in accordance with English legislation.

17. The chiefs to the number of about 100 have lately held a Council at Drieba, a village near Nasova, and have framed various resolutions as to the lines on which they desire a native code to be based. The meeting lasted about a fortnight. The minutes of its proceedings were every evening transmitted to me, and I was much struck by the moderation, good sense, and practical ability evinced by those who took part in its debates.

18. The Chief Interpreter, Mr. Wilkinson, who was engaged upon a translation of these minutes of the resolutions agreed to by this Assembly, has unfortunately been compelled by domestic business to leave Levuka suddenly, and until his return I must defer sending to your Lordship a copy of this very interesting paper, which I should have wished to accompany the present despatch.

I inclose a Minute on the subject of the maintenance of native law by Mr. Thurston, which your Lordship will, I think, read with interest.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

P.S.—I have shown this despatch to the members of my Executive Council, who all concur in the views therein expressed.

A. G.

Inclosure 1 in No. 11.

Extract from an Act to Amend the Code of Regulations attached as a Schedule to the Act No. 17, Cakobau Rex.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE AFFAIRS.

Prescribed Articles.

The following laws shall affect the aboriginal natives only :—

1. The native race shall each individually respect and obey all Magistrates.

2. The Governors of Provinces shall have power to establish within their respective Provinces Courts of Summary Jurisdiction in such localities as necessity shall require, the Bench to consist of at least two Magistrates, one of whom shall, in all cases, if possible, be a white, and such Courts shall be styled the Native District Courts.

3. The tax shall be fixed each year by the King and Parliament, and shall be paid by each individual half-yearly, viz., the first week in January and the first week in July. Notice shall be given three months before by each officer crying it through his own town. The amount each man and woman has to pay, and the day on which it is to be paid, and those who are behind-hand on the appointed day shall be allowed one week grace, and fined 6*d.*; but if the tax and fine be not paid

Taxes when paid and defaulters how punished.

at the end of that week, the defaulter shall be brought before the next District Court, and shall be sentenced to work for the Government for not more than three months. Such defaulters may be let out to anyone willing to hire them for the terms of their sentence, as the Court may direct. As there appears to be some misunderstanding in reference to the Poll-tax Law upon certain individuals, native Assistant Missionaries, teachers, and others, it is hereby declared, that it may be understood, once and for all, that the whole of the inhabitants of the land are assessed, and must pay their tax according to law, and that no individual or number of persons are free therefrom excepting the teachers and students of the Educational Institution of Navuola, who shall be free and exempt therefrom for the space of two years from this time.

Exemptions.

Stealing.

4. Stealing is forbidden. The thief shall be punished by a fine of not more than 20 dollars, with hard labour, for not less than three months or more than one year, and where it is possible restitution shall be made.

Fornication and adultery.

5. Fornication and adultery are forbidden. The punishment for fornication for both male and female is, for the first offence, a fine of 1 dollar, or one month hard labour; for second, 2 dollars, or two months' hard labour; for third, 5 dollars, or three months' hard labour. For adultery the punishment for both male and female is two years' hard labour, and the Magistrates may assess damages to be paid by the man to the adultress's husband of any amount not over 100 dollars, which if he be unable to pay, may be enforced by the man being let out to work till the amount shall have been earned previous to the commencement of his sentence.

Abortion.

6. It is forbidden to procure abortion, and the punishment shall not be less than one year, or more than five years, and the parties who assist or instigate shall be considered equally guilty. Drinking the medicine of barrenness is alike punishable under this clause.

7. Riotous and disorderly conduct, drunkenness, profane or indecent language or behaviour, are forbidden, and may be punished by any District Court, with a fine of not more than 5 dollars, or hard labour for not more than one year, or both; or the offender may be flogged, not more than twenty lashes being administered.

Sexual intercourse obtained through spirits or drugs.

8. If one or more men shall give a woman spirits or drugs to drink, and afterwards have sexual intercourse with her, the male or males shall be fined 25 dollars each, and be imprisoned for one year with hard labour. The Court may also order compensation to the woman or her friends. If the woman be married the penalties of this law shall be added to the law against adultery.

Incorrigible offenders.

9. Any person who may be hardened in crime, and shall have been tried and punished more than three times for any offences, and if again brought up for an offence, shall be sent to Levuka for trial, and may be condemned to labour as a rogue and vagabond for not more than five years.

Native Code.

Evil speaking.

10. In reference to circulating false and slanderous reports, to speak evil of the King and his Government, or of the Governors or of Chiefs and ladies, or of their families, or of the Judges and Magistrates, or of the Secretary or other officer, is unlawful. To cause evil or hatred to arise between two Chiefs, or between two tribes, or between two provinces through falsehood, or for an Ambassador or messenger to alter the purport or meaning of, or to report untruthfully a message wilfully, is unlawful, and the punishment shall be hard labour for not less than three years, and not more than ten years.

Atrocious crimes.

11. Persons who commit violent and atrocious crimes, such as treason, murder, or murderous assault, rape, or arson, shall be at once arrested, and the case investigated by the next Provincial Court, and if true sent to Levuka for trial.

Divorce.

12. A divorce may be granted on the ground of adultery or desertion for five years. A husband or wife desiring to obtain a divorce shall apply first to the Provincial Secretary, and state the reasons for such desire, who shall make a record of the same, and summon both parties to appear before the next Provincial Court, and if the Court there are grounds for granting a divorce, the application shall be published aloud in Court, and a written notice posted up in a public place in the Court town, and the town or towns of both parties for three months, till next Provincial Court, when the case shall be investigated, and if due cause appear, the Court shall report, through the Governor, to the King in Council, who shall decree, if it seem fit, a divorce within three months of such report being made. At any time from the application being made, and until the divorce is actually issued, the

parties becoming reconciled, the proceedings shall cease, and when the case is before the Court the Magistrates shall endeavour to promote reconciliation, if possible, as it is not good that the marriage bond should be broken. If a divorce be granted, the innocent party may marry again. The guilty party may marry again when the term of his or her punishment has expired.

Trespass.

13. If any person or animal shall commit a trespass on the property of another, the owner of the property shall complain to a Magistrate, who, with another Magistrate, shall hear the case, and order that compensation be made for the harm done, and how it is to be paid, and how future trespass is to be prevented, and fines shall be inflicted according to the following scale: for any person trespassing or leaving an old or regularly established road, and crossing through plantations, 1 dollar; for pigs, goats, sheep, and small animals, 1 dollar; for cattle, horses, and large animals, 5 dollars; if the owner be unable, or refuse to pay either the compensation or fine, the Magistrates may order the animals to be sold, or the person to labour for the amount.

Education of children.

14. Parents and guardians shall cause all their children of from 8 to 16 years of age to attend the school of their town for not less than two hours per day for five days per week, and the children shall pay such dues, or render such assistance to the teacher in the place of fees as the Provincial Councils shall determine. The Chief of the town, or a Magistrate of the district, shall visit the school at least once a week, and absentees shall be reported to the officers of the town, who shall bring them before the Magistrate or Chief of the town, and he shall punish them with the rod, but if the parents or guardians are to blame for their children's absence, they shall be fined not more than 1s. for each case. Children away from their town, or engaged to work, shall be excused during such absence.

Chiefs or Magistrates to visit schools.

Punishment and fines.

Native disputes.

15. All cases of dispute between natives respecting goods or property, of any kind, up to the value of 25 dollars, shall be referred to the District Court, and all over that amount to the Provincial Court, who shall decide thereon.

Crimes when tried.

16. Crimes under this Act, where the fine is not over 5 dollars, or the term of hard labour not over three months, may be tried at the District Courts, but all over that term or amount, and where not otherwise stated, shall be tried at the Provincial Court.

Disobedience to Magistrate's order.

17. Any person disobedient to any order of a Magistrate under this code shall be imprisoned, with or without hard labour, for not more than twelve months.

Commencement.

18. That this Act comes into force immediately on the passing thereof.

Inclosure 2 in No. 11.

Minute.

MY opinion is asked whether any of their native laws should be continued by the Fijian people, or whether English law, to the exclusion of any such native law, should be established among the native race.

I am of opinion that English law, to the exclusion of all native laws and customs, should not be so established, and, as it appears to me, I base my opinion upon grounds both of justice and expediency.

2. It is a maxim of law that no one can excuse himself by pleading ignorance of the law, and in a country enjoying the long accumulating advantages of centuries of civilization the maxim may be acted upon without inflicting any general hardship upon the community. In short, the safety of civilized society demands that strict regard be paid to the maxim.

3. If, however, British law in its entirety, and to the exclusion of all native laws and customs, is to be established *uno flatu* among the Fijian people, whose only rules of conduct as yet are no more than *leges barbarorum*, the whole foundation of their social system, or, at least the greater portion of it, will be broken up, their rude sympathies and susceptibilities will be wounded, they will be puzzled and alarmed by restrictions, obligations, and penalties of which they have never heard, they will become dissatisfied at finding themselves responsible for breaches of civil laws which they cannot possibly know of or understand, and equally dissatisfied that British law can afford them no remedy in many cases wherein they feel themselves to be deeply wronged.

4. I think it is admitted by students of the law that one special danger to

which all societies may be liable in their infancy is the too rapid development of the law. If this is so in societies possessing great inherent progressive power, it is likely to be still more inconvenient when laws framed for and in a highly intellectual state of civilized society are imposed upon a people barely emerging from barbarism. The natives of Fiji are now in a state of slow transition. Christian duties, recently learned and as yet reaching very little below the moral surface of the people, are mingled and confused with time-honoured feudal rights and semi-heathen usages, and in my opinion any abrupt change would be fraught with greater evils than could accompany the most rapid development.

5. The Fijian should not be made to enter into full membership of a society until he can understand the obligations under which that state of society will lay him. He requires time, as our own race has done, to develop his intellectual powers and acquire an elementary knowledge of civilized law, and hence it is unfair to force him mechanically as it were into a higher status before the law than he can in reason be expected or made to occupy.

6. For capital offences the natives should be amenable to British law, to the exclusion of any plea of "usage or custom," and also in cases of contracts and obligations made or entered into between themselves and Europeans; but for the vindication of any breach of their own common law should in my opinion be left to themselves. I would leave them as far as possible, and so far as they are not repugnant to natural law, to their own customs and usages, as being best suited to the present state and requirements of the race. And I am further of opinion that these customs and usages might without any great difficulty be gathered together in the form of a native code, and be legalized in the ordinary manner, to the great benefit of the natives and the Colony at large.

7. Among the unwritten laws of the Fijians there are some the maintenance of which is essential to the welfare of the people, such as the laws of succession, consanguinity, and marriage, and others touching adultery, abduction, and fornication, also those connected with the "lala" or service tenure, as explained by Mr. Wilkinson in his paper upon that subject. I may add the law or custom as to the adoption of children, and laws as to fishing turtle, the law by which any woman's dower lands revert upon her death to the tribe from which she sprang, and do not as in Tonga pass to the husband or the children. The retention and improvement of these laws are more calculated to promote the physical and moral well-being of the people than their repeal or extinguishment in favour of laws they are morally unable to understand, and which will most likely be opposed to their traditions, customs, and predilections. In a short time new wants will suggest and teach new practices, and with the gradual progress of the race British law can be gradually made to supplant native customs.

8. I have in a former Memorandum (the ownership of native lands) shown, without entering at length into the fact, that the foundation of power and authority among the Fijians rests in the highest living male ascendant of the tribe, or in other words in the head of the family. The administration of their laws, the almost entire absence of individual rights, and the connection of their proprietary rights and personal relations (which may from the justification or otherwise of some particular Act) are in many points analogous to the ancient village communities of India.

The kinship of the Fijians is strictly agnatic, and not cognatic.

9. Their laws of succession and marriage are based upon this ancient system, and their ideas as to social rights and wrongs, proprieties and improprieties, are probably the causes of the system itself. By this system the patriarchal chief, head, or father of the family or tribe was and even now in many parts of Fiji is answerable for the delicts of his sons. An offence committed by an individual of his tribe against a member of another tribe was as a rule resented upon, or condoned by the whole family of the offender. Frequently a whole family was decimated or destroyed for one man's offence, for it is a rule of this archaic law not to recognize individuals. The Chief of the tribe is also charged in a great degree with a liability to provide for all the members of his family, who, in fact, form one common brotherhood. Out of this liability or duty has, I conceive, arisen the right and power of "lala."

10. The rule of succession is also based upon the principles of Agnatic law, when a Fijian dies the brother of the deceased and not the *son* succeeds. The brother, as next in order to the common root, becomes the head and ruler of the family, administers the common property, and assumes the family rights and respon-

sibilities. Should this brother die the next, if there be one, succeeds, and so on until there are no more. The succession then reverts to eldest son of the eldest deceased brother, to whom the sons of all the other brothers are subordinate; while a chief inherits or is chosen from among his kinsfolk in this order of succession, he *may* be passed over because of mental or bodily defect, or notoriously foolish conduct, &c.

11, This order of succession is perhaps a bad one, but it has existed from time immemorial, and any forced departure from it would break up the present family arrangements. The worst feature about it is that it may lead to the deaths of younger brothers and nephews. In the two great Mahommedan families, where "the uncle succeeds to the throne in preference to the nephew, even though the nephew be son of the elder brother," younger brothers generally come to an untimely end. Among the old Celtic clans a law something like this prevailed, for the uncle was preferred to the grandson as a ruler.

12. In addition, however, to the agnatic rights governing the order of succession among early communities of men there can be no doubt, that semi-civilized men in semi-civilized society are more likely to prefer being governed by a man than by a child.

13. To upset any of the ancient rights arising out of this system in the present day would in my opinion be highly inexpedient. With the improvement of the existing tribal organization these old ideas and customs will die out and be superseded by English ones; but even now the Fijian order of succession is not likely to cause the crimes suggested above, and apart from it the custom is no more objectionable than the custom of gavel kind or borough English which still forms part of our English law.

14. One immediate and necessary consequence of this Agnatic law is to link together (as before noticed) the personal relations and proprietary rights of the people. If these personal relations are extinguished, which they would be at once by the repeal of native laws, the difficulty and expense of ruling the people will be greatly increased, and there will be some miscarriage of justice, for an English Statute can no more by mere publication check or vary the customs and usages sanctioned and confirmed by centuries of practice than it can check the trade-winds or alter the climate.

15. I have said that in some cases the Fijian may feel himself deeply wronged, and yet find no remedy at English law. Adultery, abduction, and fornication are cases in point, and if no remedy is found for these wrongs, it must be expected, and it will happen, that individuals will seek it in their own rude way, and then English law will be invoked to punish murder.

It may be said that there is a remedy at law for the first-named offence; that the Courts are open to Fijians as well as Europeans; that they may bring their action and recover damages. I do not think it is worth while to discuss the value which men in a rude state of society are likely to place upon such an unsatisfactory satisfaction for an injury of this nature, even if the manner of proceeding did not place it beyond their reach.

16. With regard to the second offence, abduction, it must be remembered that by their peculiar system every Fiji woman is of right the wife of some particular Fiji man; also, that every woman is by law "tabu'd," or forbidden to some particular man or men. The children of brothers, *i.e.*, brothers by the same father and mother, never intermarry; they are held to be of the same stock, of the one family and blood; the right to property or the fact of property as between "veitanoa" being held in common must not be overlooked. If the introduction of British law creates "the individual" who is hardly known to Fijian law, that which is now a lawful custom will become felony. These children when of opposite sexes hardly ever speak to one another. The words uncle and nephew are unknown; the former are all "fathers," and the latter are all "sons."

The children of *brothers and sisters* may intermarry; they are "veiwatini," that is people who may lawfully cohabit together. There is no word in the language signifying wife.

Now, if a women is seduced, enticed away, or carried off by a man of a family, other than that to which she by positive right belongs, not only is her father and all his family outraged and insulted, but so also is the man and all the family into which she should have intermarried. The offence must be instantly condoned according to tribal usage, or a conflict between the two families may break out at any moment.

A woman may be seduced by a man belonging to her intended husband's

family, and this wrong also creates a great disturbance, sometimes as great as the first-mentioned one.

The punishment for these offences might very well be left to the heads of families, who, by native law, have jurisdiction in such cases. Their decision would be far more satisfactory than that of any English lawyer, and after submission to the Roko and European Magistrate, might perhaps be made a matter of record in the Provincial Court.

I have only touched upon one or two points in this Memorandum, for my object has been only to show that the foundation of social order among the Fijians is so *different* to that of the least civilized of our own race, that comparison is possible, and that the application of the one set of laws to the two races is equally impossible. I would ask which is the better, that the laws, customs, usages, and rights of a whole people should be abrogated before others that they appreciate and understand are enacted in their stead, or that things should go on as they are until their minds are improved and enlarged by steady and imperceptible changes, until their semi-barbarous customs can be amended, improved, and finally merged into English law, without doing any violence to the native character or causing inconvenience to the Colony?

To my mind there is only one reply, and that is, impose English law to the limit of the native understanding, and beyond that legalize what may be called the native common law, in so far as it is not repugnant to natural law and sound public policy. If native law is not maintained in a great degree, then family ties, duties, and obligation will be broken up. The hereditary elders and rulers of the people will disappear; the common people, freed from their obligations of service and respect to their Chiefs, will break out of bounds; the Chiefs will lose their station, power, and usefulness; there will be a general disorganization of the whole people; and there will be a complete failure of that "justice and generosity" and of these promises to which, at the date of cession, such frequent and strong expressions were given by Her Majesty's Representative.

(Signed) J. B. THURSTON, *Auditor-General.*

No. 12.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received January 10, 1876.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, November* 2, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 18th August last,* inclosing a copy of the contract between the Pacific Mail Steam-ship Company and the Governments of New South Wales and New Zealand.

2. Unfortunately the same mail which brought this despatch brought also the intelligence that the contract, so far as Fiji was concerned, was about to be set aside.

3. I can hardly convey to your Lordship an adequate idea of the vital importance to the Colony of this question. Upon its solution its prosperity or failure must for some years altogether depend. And I would venture strongly to urge upon your Lordship the expediency of sanctioning an immediate outlay on the part of this Colony, if it be not an extravagant amount, if by so doing adherence to the conditions of the contract can be still enforced.

4. New South Wales seems disposed to insist on its observance, or enter into a similar contract on its own account, provided the expense of erecting the necessary lighthouses in Fiji is borne by this Government.

The sum required for this purpose is estimated at 2,500*l.* But if the contract in question be now broken, it will be impossible for this Colony to obtain any mail service, however inferior, without paying an annual subsidy considerably larger than the above sum, the expenditure of which, it is presumed, would secure the calling here of the mail-steamers, without other cost to the Colony.

5. Without a mail service it will be impossible for Fiji to progress. Yet a mail service of its own Fiji is too poor to afford.

There is, however, little use in my addressing your Lordship on this subject,

* Not printed.

as long before this despatch reaches your Lordship the matter must have been irrevocably settled.'

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

No. 13.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received January 10, 1876.)

My Lord, *Government House, Nasova, Fiji, November 2, 1875.*

WITH reference to my previous despatches,* it affords me much pleasure to be able to inform your Lordship that I have received very satisfactory reports from the Sigatoka district.

2. No official Report has reached me from Mr. Carew, but I have received from him a private letter, of which I inclose a copy, and from which there appears to me every hope that no outbreak such as that which has been apprehended will in fact take place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

Inclosure in No. 13.

Your Excellency, *Vuda, October 27, 1875.*

I HAVE but just received your note of the 22nd instant, the steamer with Olive having anchored an hour ago at a point two miles from here. I have had a hasty interview with Olive, and have just returned in great haste to write this.

I consider that no apprehensions whatever exist of any danger of an outbreak. I am firmly convinced that at this moment of writing the people of the interior are more peaceably inclined than they have been at any time during the past six months.

I believe I have been most successful in smoothing over difficulties, and am now here with a view of making arrangements for a preliminary meeting of natives from the interior. Our messengers have not yet returned, and I cannot see how we can get the meeting off for another five weeks; in the meantime the natives will be most fully employed in discussing matters relating thereto.

I have held a meeting of the Chiefs who are said to have caused the obstruction of the passage of the Sigatoka. They are heathen; they believed it (the boat) to contain a war party, and were resolved to defend themselves. They are called the Mui Coma. I talked with slight intermissions for nine hours to them, and they were evidently very much pleased indeed. I explained your Excellency's policy, my duties, and their extent. Everything appeared to give them great satisfaction, and I am convinced there is no danger of an attack being made by them.

I had the men, Meader and Fox, present also. I found it necessary to read and explain most fully the "Peace and Good Order Ordinance" to these men, who had previously laid a charge against the above-mentioned tribe of stealing an acre of potatoes and 30 bushels of corn. I examined thoroughly the matter, and I estimate the loss or damage at 11*s.* in all, even if this had been stolen by the natives, of which I am not at all sure, I attribute it to the children of the town, close to Meader's house, who are Christians.

All the Chiefs and most intelligent natives attach no political significance to these troubles. I have been most candid and open with the natives, and await the result.

Your Excellency's policy seems to give the greatest satisfaction to the natives.

The Buli Nadi, and a friend of his who knows all about the interior, told me yesterday that they believe the people of the interior will be pleased at a Government camp being placed amongst them.

I stayed several hours at Bucknall's on my way down. He told me most distinctly that he did not fear an attack from the natives. I put the question twice in a most pointed manner. The natives from the interior are compelled to come right past the back of his house. They are generally civil and obliging he gives me to understand.

* Nos. 5 and 9.

I have no time to answer the official letter, but will do so the moment I return to Cuvu, my head-quarters.

I am rather afraid the arrival of Olive, with the police, will prevent the meeting. It may not, however, as the excuse exists that they are assisting to build a town, and as these may come the rest may follow.

I wrote notes to your Excellency's Secretary, Mr. Gordon, and to Mr. Olive, by the first opportunity after my arrival, explaining the reason for delaying Report.

I consider that I have been most successful in allaying anxiety on the part of the interior; the difficulty now is not in getting them to meet your Excellency, but how to get them out without their clashing one with another; but I trust to be able to manage matters successfully.

Page, and others who will not leave the natives alone, are solely animated by the desire to bring matters to a crisis; if no other cause existed they are, as a body (the whites), so much displeased at your Excellency's native policy that they are most anxious to precipitate matters.

I have no time to write more; but trusting your Excellency will excuse the carelessness and hurried style of this,

I am, &c.
(Signed) WALTER H. CAREW.

His Excellency the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.,
Governor of Fiji.

No. 14.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, January* 21, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches* with reference to the apprehensions which were entertained of a disturbance of the peace between the natives and the settlers in the Island of Viti Levu.

2. I am glad to learn from your latest despatch on the subject that the reports from the Sigatoka district were of a more reassuring character, and I earnestly trust that the fears which have arisen in consequence of the attitude assumed by a certain number of planters towards the natives may have proved groundless.

3. Should it, however, become your duty to take any decided action in regard to those who are seeking occasion to disturb the peace in their own interests, you need hardly to be told that you may be assured of my disposition to give you all possible support.

4. Meanwhile I look forward with interest to receiving an account of your intended meeting with the chiefs of the interior, feeling confident that the best guarantee for a mutual understanding between yourself and them lies in the course which you propose to adopt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 15.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, January* 27, 1876.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 2nd November† last, on the subject of the mail service viâ San Francisco.

2. With reference to your observation that the Colony of New South Wales is disposed to insist upon the observance of the terms of the contract, a copy of which was inclosed in my despatch of the 18th August,‡ or to enter into a similar one on its own account, provided the erection of lighthouses could be undertaken by the Government of Fiji, my despatch of the 19th October‡ will have

* Nos. 5, 9, and 13.

† No. 12.

‡ Not printed.

informed you that I did not consider that the financial condition of Fiji would warrant the expenditure necessary for this service.

3. I have since had occasion to inform Sir Hercules Robinson that the consideration of the question of lights must be delayed until the site of the capital of Fiji should be decided upon; and, in any case, you are aware that it would be impossible for me to sanction any large outlay for this purpose out of the funds of the Colony, though I should be prepared to concur in any reasonable expenditure which would insure the calling of the mail-steamers at Fiji.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 16.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, February* 10, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 20th of September last,* reporting the circumstances in which you had performed the ceremony of drinking a bowl of yagona at Bau.

I have also received your subsequent despatches of the 1st of October,† the former inclosing a copy of your speech to the assembled chiefs, the latter containing an account of your subsequent visit to Viti Levu.

I have read these despatches with much interest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 17.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, February* 10, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 30th of October, 1875,‡ in which you raise the question how far English law should be at once generally introduced into the Colony of Fiji.

2. I approve of your conclusions that, to impose the whole body of English law upon the entire population, or even to impose it nominally, with power to the Courts to modify its application according to the circumstances of each case, would be inexpedient; and, indeed, the former of these alternatives is so far removed from those principles which I think ought to govern the case that I do not consider it necessary further to discuss it.

3. I also agree with you as to the necessity for a code of laws applicable to natives alone; but in expressing my assent to this, I must add that the subject seems to require some further consideration and explanation.

4. It is necessary to inquire what branches of English law, and also English procedure, are to be introduced, and to what extent, and also what branches of native law and native procedure are to be retained, and whether with any, and what, modifications. The general principles to be observed are, that in the department of criminal law the provisions of English law should, in all graver cases, be adopted as far as possible in dealing with the natives. At the same time it will doubtless be found that differences of race and custom will necessitate certain divergencies, and that especially among the minor offences and police cases a considerable modification may be looked for. This, I infer, is the view which you also take.

5. With respect to civil law, the rule would be somewhat different. The natives are, under present circumstances, entitled to have preserved to them their customs and usages, so far as they are not contrary to natural equity and right, or inconsistent with the preservation of health, good order, and the public safety. Your endeavour should, therefore, be to continue the native laws in these respects, so far

* No. 3. † Nos. 7 and 8. ‡ No. 11.

as you can with safety do so, leaving to future legislation the task of reforming the law as the natives advance in civilization.

6. So also with regard to rules of procedure and evidence. In criminal cases it may very likely be desirable to approach closer to English rules than in civil matters, where a greater leaning towards habits long established and cherished by the natives would be permissible.

7. I request that, in each of these respects, you will describe and illustrate, more fully than you have hitherto done, the class of cases which, in your opinion, might be brought under a recognized and legalized system of administration applicable to natives, showing, under the principal heads of criminal law, civil law, procedure, and evidence, the chief portions of English law which you would wish to introduce, with their effect upon native law and custom.

8. I do not feel assured that I entirely understand the functions of the Board for Native Affairs which you propose; I infer, however, that you intend that it should be invested with power to declare authoritatively, as well as to amend and repeal all native laws and customs, subject to approval by the Legislative Council and yourself. I am inclined to think that it might be beneficial to pass an Ordinance giving to such a Board the powers you indicate, inasmuch as it would be a convenient instrument for sifting the native laws, abolishing such as are barbarous or objectionable, and preserving the more appropriate. I should, however, be glad to hear from you in greater detail with respect to its composition, functions, and powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 18.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, February* 10, 1876.

I HAVE had under my consideration your despatch of the 30th of October,* forwarding the Schedule of the Establishment to which you have found it necessary to give a provisional sanction.

2. Without recapitulating in detail the arrangements to which you have for the time given your consent, I would observe that, assuming the omissions in the original Schedule prepared in this Department to correspond exactly with those pointed out in your despatch, and allowing for the Surveyor-General's salary, which has been since authorized by my despatch, the saving in your scale amounts to 241*l.* in the seven headings, Nos. 1 to 5, 8 and 9, of the original Schedule.

3. Under the two remaining headings, Judicial and Police, the original scale amounts, as you observe, to 5,188*l.*, allowing for the salary of the Attorney-General's Clerk, since provided for, your own amounts to a sum of 9,453*l.*, leaving an excess in your estimate of 4,265*l.* But my despatch of the 1st of November† will have informed you that an extra 500*l.* per annum has also been allowed for a period not exceeding three years to Mr. de Ricci in consequence of his renunciation of private practice, which increment is 250*l.* more than your present Schedule anticipates. With an increase of 259*l.* to your Estimate in this item, and with a further increase of 500*l.* to the Estimate prepared in this office, the former amounts to 9,703*l.*, and the original Schedule to 5,688*l.*

4. It appears, therefore, that in the nine headings of the total establishment the increase in your present Schedule over the scale authorised by me amounts to no less a sum than 3,774*l.*

Although I was not prepared to consider so large an increase in the Establishment at the time of your leaving this country, I see no alternative but to sanction provisionally these arrangements which you have submitted after careful consideration, and which I am sure you believe to be as economical as possible; but I have every confidence that you will keep always before you the fact that the Establishment as now sanctioned is costly beyond the means and revenue of the Colony, notwithstanding that many individuals are poorly paid, and that you will consider whether every officer's time is really fully employed in necessary work, and especially

* No. 10. † Not printed.

whether, as in too many Colonies, there is not an excess of correspondence between the Departments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 19.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(*Received February* 14, 1876.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, September* 12, 1875.

IN continuation of my despatch of 21st August last,* I have the honour to inclose the Report of the Assistant Medical Officer, Dr. Cruickshank, upon the suitability of Levuka as a site for a capital.

2. Dr. Cruickshank, as an old resident in Levuka, naturally speaks less strongly in its disfavour than Drs. Macgregor and Mayo, but his conclusions are substantially the same as theirs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

Inclosure in No. 19.

Sir, *Levuka, August* 20, 1875.

IN answer to your letter requesting me to furnish his Excellency with an official report as to the suitability or fitness of Levuka, from a sanitary point of view, for the site of a large town, I have the honour to reply that in the event of Levuka becoming a large town, and being confined, as at present, on the coast-line, of necessity the town must extend up the slopes of the hills.

With regard to such extension, I do not see any objection from a sanitary point of view; the formation of the land and the rapid fall in the level of the two streams are, in my opinion, great natural advantages for the supply of water to a large town such as Levuka would become; and although at present the supply and the quality of the water are by no means what they ought to be, still I think that, by the formation of reservoirs and filtering tanks high up in both valleys, water could easily be obtained in sufficient quantity and of good quality for the supply of a moderately large town.

It would also be necessary to construct drains or culverts down the small ravines which branch off from the main streams on each side, and also a culvert or drain along the foot of the slopes of sufficient capacity to carry off the storm-water which comes down in such quantity during a continuance of wet weather.

At present the drains for the above purpose are very insufficient to carry all the water to the sea, and, in consequence, at such times many parts of the flat land are submerged, the water only disappearing by evaporation when the rain has ceased.

My remarks above have referred to the probable extension of the town of Levuka on the hill sides and on the high land; and, in my opinion, the objections to the extension of the town in that direction are of small moment, and could be easily overcome.

It is to be supposed, however, that before such extension could take place, the greater part of the flat land would be built over, where, indeed, now by far the greater number of the inhabitants live. The health of the population has, in my opinion, been hitherto good, and would compare favourably with most other English settlements situated so far in the tropics; in the event, however, of the town becoming a large one, and the flat land becoming more densely populated, I should expect a much greater rate of mortality than exists at present for the following reasons:—

The land from the foot of the hills to the sea has in all places a very gradual slope; in fact, it is almost a level, and in many places the land immediately behind the beach is only a few inches above high-water mark; further back in some places it falls again, so as to be on a level or perhaps below the high-water mark. This is particularly the case with the land in the vicinity of the Roman Catholic Mission-House and up the right bank of the Levuka creek; it is also so in the land on which the village of Vagadace is now built.

* No. 30 of C. 1404 of 1876.

Most of the land behind the beach frontage is now, during the greater part of the year, one continuous swamp. This is no doubt caused in a great measure by the existence of taro-beds; some in cultivation, others in disuse, but nearly all covered with stagnant water, the land being thus placed in the most favourable condition to evolve material poison, and to contaminate any springs, wells, or other water supplies in the neighbourhood.

It is in this low level of the land on which the present town of Levuka chiefly stands that I see the great objection to Levuka becoming a large and healthy town; the land is certainly too low to allow of efficient drainage, which is, in my opinion, the only remedy.

To allow of efficient drainage, the level would require to be raised so much, that it may be questionable whether it were possible; it would at any rate be a work of great expense and of long duration.

It would also be necessary in the event of Levuka becoming a large town that the streets leading from the beach should be very much widened, so as to allow a free access of air to all parts of the town; this would be the more necessary, as in all probability the houses and warehouses on the beach would be raised in height, thereby cutting off the sea-breeze to a greater extent than at present.

As a whole, the present site of Levuka has the advantage of being fully exposed to the prevailing winds during most of the year; but the site is disadvantageous, inasmuch as from the abrupt rise and high elevations of the hills behind, the winds above mentioned are not felt so strongly as they otherwise would be; and from the same cause the temperature of Levuka is as, I believe, higher considerably than in most other places in the Group.

I regret that I am not able to forward any statistics as to the temperature, rainfall, &c., throughout the year, but meteorological observations have, I believe, been taken at Nasova for some time back, and might be available.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN CRUICKSHANK,
Assistant Medical and Health Officer.

The Acting Colonial Secretary.

No. 20.

Governor the Hon. A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received February 14, 1876.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, November* 16, 1875.

IN continuation of previous despatches,* I have the honour to inclose copies of reports which I have received from Mr. Carew.

Your Lordship will, I think, agree with me in considering that Mr. Carew displays a thorough knowledge of the work which he has been entrusted to perform, and ability and judgment in its execution.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 20.

Sir *Vuda Ba Province, October* 29, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch dated the 22nd October, 1875, referring to the alarming reports of the state of affairs existing in the neighbourhood of the Sigatoka River, and inclosing a copy of a letter received by his Excellency from J. E. Mason, Esq., and an extract from the "Fiji Argus" of that date.

1. in the absence of my journal, which is at my head-quarters at Cuva, Nadroga, I can only forward a general report of my proceedings since leaving Levuka.

I arrived in due course at Serua, where I found the Buli Ratu na Deuba expecting his people to come in to receive a report from him of affairs transacted in Levuka during his stay there, I, therefore, awaited their arrival, and delivered

* Nos. 5, 9, and 13.

an address, which gave great satisfaction to the assembly. I then proceeded to Korolevu, and being compelled to stay several hours at the residence of Mr. Bucknell, by the state of the tide, I had every opportunity of discovering the real state of his mind with reference to the natives of the interior in his neighbourhood. It appeared clear to me that Mr. Bucknell's family were subjected to annoyance from the natives, who, in their frequent visits to Korolevu,—which is one of their sea-coast villages, and immediately adjoining Bucknell's house,—are compelled to pass through his plantation and at the back of his house. Their object in staying about Mr. Bucknell's house, as confessed to me by that gentleman, is the gratification of the natural curiosity of savages,—for example, I was told by one of the family that the pump alone was an object of never-ending wonder to the people.

I asked Mr. Bucknell twice, in the most pointed manner, if he apprehended danger from these people; he, on both occasions, assured me that he did not fear any attack. He is a hard-working man, and a very old colonist in New South Wales; he finds their visits annoying and obstructive; but, on the other hand, he appears to be totally devoid of those attributes considered absolutely essential in dealing with a warlike and uncivilized people.

The Buli of this district has, I believe, considerable influence and authority over the people, and although he would not be able to prevent an assault being committed out of his sight, and on the impulse of the moment, under excitement, yet I believe he is quite capable of restraining his people from the commission of any grave offence; moreover, I hear from the natives on all sides that these people are well-disposed.

3. I then made the best of my way along the coast towards Cuva, the residence of Roko Tui Nadroga, and landing at the plantation of Messrs. Clark and McDonald; in the vicinity, met an American citizen, named Meader, who has a small plantation on the coast, two miles east of the mouth of the Sigatoka,—a man named Fox lives with him.

Meader at once complained to me of the behaviour of a heathen tribe in his vicinity, called the "Noi Conua,"—these people after professing Christianity for some years finally returned to heathenism during the outbreak of measles. Meader stated that they were in the constant habit of robbing his plantation, and had stolen 700 fowls; also, during that very week, had dug up, and taken away in one night, an acre of sweet potatoes and thirty bushels of maize. During the conversation, Meader stated that Fox had fired at the natives during the past week. I then proceeded to the village of Cuvu, and consulted with the Roko Tui and other intelligent natives, and from this, and other conversations held with several of the white settlers, I arrived at the opinion that Meader and Fox were, in a very great measure, to blame for their troubles,—being both of them hasty in temper, and given to the use of threatening and abusive language. The opinion is general amongst the natives, and I quite concur in it, that these reputed robberies should not be regarded in the light of a political demonstration, but would merely be the result of the natural thievish propensities of the natives, which are always allowed, during the existence of heathenism, to run unchecked, unless the party robbed is under the special protection or "tabu" of the Chief. I am also quite convinced that the robberies complained of by Meader and Fox are vastly exaggerated, if, indeed, they exist at all.

I then sent messengers to the portion of the "Conua" tribe living on the coast under "Vaka-yavu-nuka," nominally the Buli of the whole district, directing him to procure a meeting, as soon as practicable, between me and these troublesome tribes.

After a delay of several days we met at "Vunavutu," the residence of the Buli "Cokoibusa," on the Sigatoka River, and two miles from its mouth. I then explained most clearly the intention of his Excellency with regard to the natives, both of the sea coast and the interior, also my duties, and the extent of my powers and jurisdiction.

The conversation lasted for many hours, and I received assistance from Emose Loca, the Magistrate, and the Roko Tui also explained the action of the Chiefs at Levuka, in installing the Governor after native custom, and the full extent of the meaning thereof.

I told the meeting that there was one thing above all things they must understand, once for all, in the clearest and most unmistakeable manner, that all must recognize the ruling of Great Britain, and obey it; that murder, dragging off women, and robbery were forbidden, and must be punished, not as offences against

the individual, but as a matter of public policy, and that they would readily understand that one person, or one tribe, could not be allowed to endanger the peace of the whole country.

I then told them that in case they should say hereafter that I had deceived them, I intended to take a number of officers into the interior, and there establish a government village, that it would not be a whiteman's affair, nor a Bauman's camp, nor a camp of sea-coast people, but that I should ask all the tribes to give me some young men to be trained as officers with the others, and their duty would not be to protect evil, but not to carry oppression to any section of the community, and told them that I was the declared enemy of oppression in all its forms; also that I would allow no "lala" to be practised by those under my orders, but that all food, &c., required would be fairly and honestly paid for; that they might please themselves with reference to religion, but that any person annoying them on the score of their refusal to become Christians would be punished; and, finally, that I would not ask the tribes of the interior to pay any taxes.

I then entered into the matter of the alleged robberies at Meader and Fox's place, who were both present at my request; they denied all knowledge of this, but ascribed the theft to the children of a Christian village on the coast immediately adjoining Meader's place, and called "Korotoga;" they stated that these white men constantly annoyed them with threats and abuse for a long time past, and one of them had quite recently told them that war was declared against them, and they would be carried off, and this had caused the greatest alarm and consternation in their minds, and that of their friends in the interior; that upon the arrival of the steamer "Pride of Viti" in the river they had all believed it to contain a war party, and had assembled at a village called "Tavuni," above the river, for the purpose of preventing the ascent of the vessel and party.

I then interpreted the "Peace and Good Order Ordinance" to them, and read it to Meader and Fox, explaining most clearly that hasty and angry tempers alone, if considered dangerous to the peace of a district and the safety of its inhabitants, might be considered sufficient cause for the deportation of persons out of their district, in terms of the Ordinance; that they must upon no account whatever use firearms except for absolute and immediate protection of life, but that all persons killing another, even in self-preservation, stood in deadly peril in the eyes of the law, and that onus of proof rested with those using the weapons.

Also that the very next time they fired arms at a native, even if merely for the purpose of frightening him (this in answer to a question by Fox), I should at once report them, and also recommend that the Ordinance be carried out without delay.

The meeting lasted from 3 P.M. until 1 A.M. on the following morning, and the natives expressed themselves as being much pleased and reassured; and I have no doubt whatever in my mind but that the best results may be expected from it. A Christian native had informed me that a girl between whom and himself a mutual attachment existed, was betrothed to a heathen Chief then present, and that the girl's friends approved of their attachment. On my applying to these men, they abandoned at once their claim to the girl in the most cheerful and gratifying manner possible. I then decided that the property paid at the former betrothal be repaid to those giving up the girl, and that the marriage be delayed until my directions were complied with. This gave great pleasure to all parties.

The girl is now living in the house of the Buli, and I regard this in the light of a victory over their prejudices and ill-will.

The meeting then separated, the Chiefs first asking me to get Meader and Fox to shake hands and be friends with them, and I finally adjured them to prevent their young men from stealing, and other evil practices.

3. I then crossed the Sigatoka, and walked to Meader and Fox's plantation, and under their guidance examined the state of the plantation; and, assuming that thefts had been committed, of which no other evidence appears to exist than the unsupported statements of Meader and Fox, I cannot value the property said to have been stolen at more than 11*s.*; and, moreover, if stealing does exist, I attribute it to the children of the Christian village "Korotoga," in the immediate neighbourhood.

The Buli "Vaka-yavu-nuku" being present, I again counselled all parties to be on their guard as to their future behaviour. A further shaking of hands then took place, and after removing four men, placed as guards by Meader's request, to Roko Tui Nadroga before my arrival, and whose presence I considered calculated to cause harm, I returned to Cuvu.

4. After a short delay, I proceeded to Nadi, and from thence to this place, Vuda, where I arrived on the 27th instant, and had an interview with Bulis Vuda and Sabeto, and learned that "Matas," sent inland some time since at my request, had not yet returned to report.

This I attribute to the difficulties arising in the interior from their mutual jealousies and fears of treachery from one another. The arrival of the Superintendent of Police with a party of men on the afternoon of the same day appearing to me to complicate matters very seriously, I requested the opinion of the Bulis Vuda and Sabeto, and other leading natives; and as it coincided exactly with my own, that it would have the effect of alarming the natives, and cause suspicion of our intentions, and thus prevent the arrival of the Chiefs at Nadi to hold a preliminary meeting with me on the subject of his Excellency's proposed meeting; and it being also quite certain that exaggerated reports of their numbers and intentions would be spread far and wide throughout the interior, and would cause most serious and irremediable mischief, I at once despatched two trusty "Matas" to the tribes about the heads of the Sigatoka to report candidly the reasons for the arrival of the police and the intentions of the Government, and endeavouring to reassure them in every possible manner. I now await the result, and the arrival of the messengers previously despatched.

5. A report reached the coast some few weeks ago that the "Qali-mari" tribe had burnt the town called Korosamito, where the murderers at Vatubau on the Ba River had taken refuge, and had killed the instigator of the murders, fearing their presence in the vicinity would bring trouble on them. This report requires confirmation.

6. Having received intimation of the expected immediate arrival of his Excellency the Governor, I purpose remaining here to await his Excellency's arrival. Some difficulty has arisen in the matter of settling the Sabeto people on their lands. I find it quite impossible to allow them to rebuild on their old site, as it is within the boundaries contained in Mr. Cudlip's deeds, and for other reasons. Mr. Olive has, however, in conjunction with the Buli, discovered a site, which, from his report, I consider admirable in every way. I propose going out on Monday next to lay out the site for the buildings.

7. In conclusion, I have the honour to state my opinion that there are no grounds whatever for fearing an outbreak, the reports taken to Levuka by parties interested in creating a disturbance, partly from desire to obtain possession of much coveted lands on the Sigatoka River, and partly from the widespread desire of the settlers to see condign punishment dealt out to the natives who, being freeholders themselves, have neither occasion nor the desire to work for the planters for lengthy periods of time, are purposely exaggerated with the almost avowed intention to compel the Government to send an expedition into the interior for the capture of the inhabitants and the confiscation of their lands.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WALTER S. CAREW,
Commissioner for Central Navitilevu.

The Hon. A. E. Havelock,
Colonial Secretary.

Inclosure 2 in No. 20.

Sir, *Cuvu, Nadroga, November* 4, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to forward the following information to supplement my despatch of the 30th ultimo, which, owing to the non-occurrence of opportunity of forwarding, I have been compelled to detain, to await the arrival of the "Pride of Viti" steamer.

The above vessel arrived at Vuda yesterday, and having made most satisfactory arrangements for the disposition of the Sabeto people forwarded by her, we resolved to embark the police and proceed at once to this place, where we arrived at about mid-day.

I return to Nadi to-morrow to meet some Chiefs from the forks of the Sigatoka River about Beimana, the rivers forming the forks are called respectively the Wairoro and the Waitabucake; these Chiefs and their districts I am personally acquainted with.

I was fortunate enough to meet Roko Tui Ba at Vuda, he having arrived

en route to Nadi to investigate some charges against native teachers of interfering with the planters' Fijian labourers.

I believe these charges to be groundless, and founded entirely on misapprehension, and owing to the planters' general ignorance of the native language, and their modes of thought and expression.

I am quite convinced that no grounds exist for apprehending any further disturbances on the Sigatoka River, at any rate for some considerable period.

On my arrival here to-day, I met Cokoibusa, the Buli Nadroga, a very superior man apparently in all general respects. He informs me that our meeting held at his village, Vunavutu, on the Sigatoka, and reported on in my letter of 30th October last, is likely to bear most excellent fruit; the Chief of Tavuni, who is the leading Chief of the tribes who have been causing so much uneasiness and expense, and who declined to accompany the Chiefs of Vatuvoka and Korokune (see map) because "he was ashamed" to meet Cokoibusa in the latter's own village, owing to his (the Chief of Tavuni) having occasionally threatened to club the latter, immediately on the return of the other Chiefs from our meeting, was so much pleased at their report of our proceedings, that he at once declared himself averse to committing any harm, but would go at once and report the good news to his friends and relatives at Beimana and the vicinity.

I consider the presence here of the armed police quite unnecessary, and it, moreover is, I conceive likely to interfere very materially with the ultimate success of my endeavours to procure a meeting between his Excellency and the tribes, and I beg to suggest that they may be recalled without delay, unless other reasons, unknown to me, exist for retaining them in this part of the Colony.

Immediately on my return from Nadi, I propose going up the coast as far as Namosi Province, calling in at the Sigatoka River, and all leading villages on my way, when I shall forward a further report of proceedings in my district.

A number of people, war refugees, and called the "Kaine," who have, until very recently, been living in the district of Nadi, having, without permission of any properly qualified official, taken upon themselves to build a village upon land belonging to the Vatura people now at Koro, I have ordered them to join Buli Sabeto in his village, and this they state they are most willing to do.

I have the honour to suggest that the Valura and Kaine people taken away as prisoners of war by Cakobau's late Government, and now working for the planters at Koro and elsewhere, be returned to Vuda, with instructions to Roko Tui Ba that they be ordered to build in the village of Buli Sabeto, and called "Koroiaca."

All the above-mentioned people are sub-divisions of the Sabeto tribe, and their general name is the "Kai Sabeto."

I have now, finally, the honour to suggest for your consideration the non-advisability of returning any Magodro people, until I have had an opportunity of making inquiries into their conduct, past and present; the men belonging to that tribe, and now refugees in the interior, are the people who committed the murders at Vatubau on the Ba River three months back, and I have the strongest reasons for believing that, in their apprehension of punishment being meted out to them for this and other deeds of violence, they are actively engaged in endeavouring to prevent the success of my efforts to secure peace to this section of the Colony.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WALTER S. CAREW,
Magistrate and Commissioner, C. V. L.

The Hon. A. E. Havelock,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 21.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(*Received February* 14, 1876.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, December* 4, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, the estimates of revenue and expenditure for the four months ending on the 31st December.

The estimates framed by Sir H. Robinson only sanctioned expenditure up to the 10th of October, so that fresh estimates would in any case have been necessary

for the period between that day and the end of the year; and, as considerable changes were contemplated, it was, on the whole, thought best to omit the estimates from the list of measures in the Past Laws Continuation Ordinance, and to include in fresh ones the whole period subsequent to the proclamation of the charter.

The estimates of revenue call for but few remarks. They are based on the assumption that existing sources of receipt will remain undisturbed until the end of the present year; nor do I propose to suggest any of the changes in the incidence or character of taxation, which appear to me to be expedient, until the estimates for 1876 are brought before the Council.

It is not anticipated that more than 5,440*l.* will be collected during these four months.

Previously to submitting these estimates to the Board, I had, however, received intimation that the sum of 40,000*l.*, voted by the Imperial Parliament in aid of Fiji, had been paid to the Crown Agents on account of the Colony.

The estimates of expenditure require somewhat more lengthened comment.

The estimated expenditure on account of establishments amounts to 7,053*l.* 14*s.*

I need hardly assure your Lordship that I have used my utmost endeavours to limit the number of those in official employment, and I wish that I could feel as well assured that adequate provision has been made for the discharge of public duties as I am that unnecessary employments have not been created.

The services, exclusive of establishments, for which votes are asked consist, as usual, of two classes—those which are of a permanent character, and those which are called for by special and passing exigences.

The former amounts to about 7,000*l.*, and the latter class to about 18,500*l.*

Taking, first, those expenses which may be looked on as permanent, and a vote for the renewal of which will be annually asked for, it is unnecessary to dwell on such items as those of the pensions to the Vuni Valu and to Adi Kinla, or those for the administration of justice, the purchase of stationery, the food and clothing of police and prisoners, necessary repairs to buildings and boats, or the incidental expenses of the various departmental offices. They have all been estimated with the most careful economy, and almost only the only large sum asked for which requires notice, among those which may be expected to become an annual charge, is that for military expenditure. This amounts to 999*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*, or at the rate of 3,275*l.* 16*s.* a-year, and has been asked for in accordance with your Lordship's instructions.

It may be remarked that a charge of 176*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, or an annual charge of at least 530*l.*, is incurred in consequence of the establishment of a public hospital. On the other hand, it is hoped that the fees paid by the public for the use of the hospital will in a measure meet the expenditure incurred in its maintenance.

The amount paid as rent for public offices also merits some observation. It is so large, that a single year's rent (720*l.*) would probably be sufficient to cover the expense of erecting buildings superior to the miserable edifices which now do duty as public offices; and, if Levuka remains the seat of Government, it will probably be desirable at once to commence their construction.

Turning now to the expenditure of a more special character, that on account of the reduction of debt first claims attention.

Sums of 5,000*l.* and 5,500*l.* are asked for to pay off liabilities incurred since the Session to the Fiji Bank and to the Bank of New South Wales, on which interest, and in some cases heavy interest, is being paid.

The sum of 1,082*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* advanced by the Government of New South Wales does not bear interest, but it is only right that undue advantage should not be taken of the liberality of that Colony, and that repayment of this amount should be effected as soon as possible.

A vote of 748*l.* is asked for on account of new works. Of this 288*l.* is for the erection of the new public offices at Nasova, 400*l.* for the barracks for the Royal Engineers, and 60*l.* for the construction of the engineer workshop and offices.

The amount estimated as required for repairs is 250*l.* This, besides actua repairs, includes alterations and additions to the Court-house, considered to be essential by the Chief Justice, as well as the addition to the hospital of a laboratory and dispensary, and the flooring of a part of the verandah at Nasova. The addition to the building at Nasova, rendered necessary in order to provide for the accommodation of my family, has been effected at my own cost and without expense to the Colony.

It has been thought necessary to purchase boats for the Stipendiary Magistrates, and a sum of 150*l.* has been placed on the estimates for that purpose.

The cost of the wages and passage money for return immigrants, which will have, in the first instance at all events, to be borne by the Colonial Government, is estimated at 1,000*l.* This sum is, of course, a charge upon the estates of those on whose behalf it has been paid: but I fear, as regards a large portion of it, I can hold out no sanguine hopes of its ever being replaced.

Under the head of "General Transport" the expenses attendant on the removal from Goro to Saleeto of the people of the latter town, long detained as prisoners of war at Goro, are included, as are also those of the Commission for the settlement of the Province of Macuata. I have in separate despatches reported to your Lordship with respect to both these transactions.

Under the head "Miscellaneous" will be found one large item (6,000*l.*) for the purchase of a steamer. Your Lordship may perhaps remember that before leaving England I was strongly of opinion that it would be preferable to enter into arrangements for subsidizing a commercial steamer, and not to resort to the very costly proceeding of purchasing and owning a Colonial vessel, and I was instructed in this sense by your Lordship. Nevertheless, although desirous of obtaining the services of a chartered vessel, and most unwilling to incur the cost of such a purchase, or the risk of loss which must always attend the possession of such property, I was at length compelled, though reluctantly, to admit that the terms on which only a chartered vessel could be obtained were such as to render purchase, as recommended by Sir H. Robinson, to be on the whole the best arrangement for the Colony.

I have in another despatch reported fully to your Lordship on this subject.

A sum of 200*l.* and 100*l.* respectively was expended for the maintenance of the Chiefs assembled at the Council of Draiba, and the presents made to them on the occasion of the Proclamation of the new Government, and I have now to ask your Lordship's approval of that expenditure.

The sum may be thought large, but the occasion for the expenditure will not recur, and it was felt by my Executive Council as well as by myself that it was of the utmost importance that the numerous body of Chiefs assembled should have no reason to complain of any niggardliness on the part of the Government, and that it would be in the highest degree injudicious to afford ground on which the ill-disposed persons might sow the seeds of discontent in the native mind.

Your Lordship will at once perceive from the statements that the financial position of the Colony is not one of a satisfactory nature. The revenue has fallen very far short of Sir H. Robinson's estimate; whilst, on the other hand, the expenditure has much exceeded what was anticipated; and notwithstanding my strong desire to devote the proceeds of the loan from the Imperial Government exclusively to the payment of debt and the construction of public works, I have been compelled to apply a portion of it to meet the claims of ordinary expenditure.

The fact that the estimate of receipts has not been realized is no doubt in part due to the terrible visitation from which the Colony has suffered; but it is to be remarked that the chief deficiency is not in native taxes, but to Customs duties, a result which may be attributed to a somewhat too sanguine anticipation of the effect of the Customs Tariff substituted by the Provisional Government for that previously in force.

I have for a considerable time been engaged in a very careful inquiry into the mode of raising revenue most applicable to such a country as Fiji, and I shall now very shortly be in a position to report to your Lordship the results of that inquiry, and the methods which, with your Lordship's sanction, I propose to adopt in order to secure an adequate revenue for the year 1876.

I need hardly add that it is the object of my constant care to keep the expenditure of the Colony within the narrowest possible limits.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

Inclosure in No. 21.

Estimated Revenue for the Four Months ending 31st December, 1875.

Branch of Service.	Amount.
	£
Customs Duties	3,000
Pilotage and Light Dues	140
Shipping Licenses	60
Wine and Spirit Licenses	75
Auctioneers' Licenses	10
Licenses to Labour Vessels	23
Native Taxes	1,000
Foreign Labour Taxes	33
Fees, Fines, and Forfeitures	200
Postage Stamps	100
Miscellaneous Revenue	800
	5,441

N.B.—The sum of 40,000*l.* advanced to the Government of the Colony as a loan without interest, by a vote of the Imperial Parliament, has been placed to the credit of the account of the Colony with the Crown Agents, and is available to meet the expenditure of the period ending December 31, 1875.

Abstract of the Sums required to defray the Expenses of the Colonial Government of Fiji for the period commencing 1st September, 1875, and ending 31st December, 1875.

Establishments.	Fixed Establishments.	Temporary and Provisional.	For Four Months ending December 1875.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
The Governor	3,620 0 0	..	1,206 13 4	
Colonial Secretary's Office	..	1,100 0 0	366 13 4	
Receiver-General's Office	..	1,300 0 0	433 6 8	
Audit Office	..	700 0 0	233 6 8	
Survey Office	..	350 0 0	116 13 4	
Post Office	..	250 0 0	83 6 8	
Commissioner of Lands, &c.	..	940 0 0	313 6 8	
Medical	650 0 0	200 0 0	283 6 8	
Judicial	1,500 0 0	4,448 0 0	1,936 10 9	
Police and Gaols	..	3,205 0 0	1,029 8 10	
Provincial	..	3,219 0 0	1,051 1 1	
	5,770 0 0	15,712 0 0	7,053 14 0	7,053 14 0
Exclusive of Establishments.				
Pensions	..	588 6 8		
Judicial	..	55 0 0		
Colonial Secretary's Office	..	690 0 0		
Hospitals	..	201 13 4		
Asylums	..	50 0 0		
Works	..	1,363 0 0		
Stores, &c.	..	1,100 0 0		
Police and Gaols	..	862 0 0		
Gaols	..	77 10 0		
Postal	..	50 0 0		
Treasury	..	5 0 0		
Custom and Harbour Offices	..	288 0 0		
Military	..	999 13 8		
Provincial	..	197 4 1		
General Transport	..	185 0 0		
Immigration	..	1,160 0 0		
Miscellaneous (including repayment of advances, interest, &c., to the amount of 11,632*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*)	..	17,712 4 6	25,584 12 3	
				25,584 12 3
Total estimate of Expenditure	..	..	..	32,638 6 3

Colonial Estimates.—Fiji.

Expenditure.

Establishments Detailed.	Fixed Establishments. £ s. d.	Provisional and Temporary. £ s. d.	Total. £ s. d.	For Period ending Dec. 31, 1875. £ s. d.
Civil.—Salaries.				
His Excellency the Governor	5,000 0 0			
Private Secretary	300 0 0			
Aide-de-camp	170 0 0			
Private Interpreter	150 0 0			
	5,620 0 0			
Less 2,000*l.* returned by his Excellency .	2,000 0 0			
	3,620 0 0	..	3,620 0 0	1,206 13 4
Colonial Secretary's Office.				
Colonial Secretary and Receiver-General .	..	500 0 0	..	166 13 4
First Clerk and Clerk of Council ..	..	250 0 0	..	83 6 8
Second Clerk	..	200 0 0	..	66 13 4
Third Clerk	..	150 0 0	..	50 0 0
			1,100 0 0	
Receiver-General's Office.				
Clerk of the Treasury	..	200 0 0	..	66 13 4
First Clerk of Customs and Shipping-master	..	250 0 0	..	83 6 8
Second Clerk and Bondkeeper	..	150 0 0	..	50 0 0
Third Clerk	..	150 0 0	..	50 0 0
2 Boarding Officers, at 150*l.* each ..	..	300 0 0	..	100 0 0
Harbour-master	..	200 0 0	..	66 13 4
Light-keeper	..	50 0 0	..	16 13 4
			1,300 0 0	
Audit Office.				
Auditor-General	..	500 0 0	..	166 13 4
Clerk	..	200 0 0	..	66 13 4
			700 0 0	
Survey Office.				
Surveyor-General	..	350 0 0	..	116 13 4
			350 0 0	
Post Office.				
Colonial Postmaster		250 0 0	..	83 6 8
			250 0 0	
Commissioner of Lands and Agent-General of Immigration.				
Commissioner, &c.	..	500 0 0	..	166 13 4
First Clerk	..	240 0 0	..	80 0 0
Second Clerk	..	200 0 0	..	66 13 4
			940 0 0	
Medical.				
Chief Medical Officer	350 0 0	..	..	116 13 4
Government Medical Officer for Eastern Islands	300 0 0	50 0 0	..	116 13 4
Assistant Medical Officer	..	150 0 0	..	50 0 0
	650 0 0	200 0 0	850 0 0	
Judicial.				
Chief Justice	1,000 0 0	..	..	333 6 8
Attorney-General	500 0 0	250 0 0	..	250 0 0
Police Magistrate and Registrar-General .	..	{ 350 0 0 { 150 0 0	..	116 13 4 50 0 0
Chief Native Magistrate	..	120 0 0	..	40 0 0
Registrar Supreme Court	..	240 0 0	..	80 0 0
Interpreter, ditto	..	200 0 0	..	66 13 4
Clerk to Attorney-General	..	150 0 0	..	50 0 0
Clerk to Police Court	..	150 0 0	..	50 0 0
Interpreter, ditto	..	150 0 0	..	50 0 0
Bailiff, &c.	..	100 0 0	..	33 6 8
4 Stipendiary Magistrates, at 300*l.* ..	..	1,200 0 0	..	362 18 0
4 ditto, at 250*l.*	..	1,000 0 0	..	324 6 1
Commissioner for the Interior	..	100 0 0	..	33 6 8
18 Native Magistrates	..	288 0 0	..	96 0 0
			5,948 0 0	

Establishments Detailed.	Fixed Establishment.	Provisional and Temporary.	Total.	For Period ending Dec. 31, 1875.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Police and Gaols.				
Superintendent		300 0 0	..	100 0 0
Clerk		50 0 0	..	16 13 4
Gaoler and Sub-Inspector		250 0 0	..	83 6 8
1 Sub-Inspector		200 0 0	..	51 2 2
3 Sub-Inspectors, at 150*l.*		450 0 0	..	126 13 4
1 Sergeant		125 0 0	..	41 13 4
8 European Constables, at 105*l.*		840 0 0	..	280 0 0
2 half-caste Constables, at 75*l.*		150 0 0	..	50 0 0
1 Warder to Gaol		90 0 0	..	30 0 0
250 Native Constables		750 0 0	..	250 0 0
			3,205 0 0	
Provincial.				
Roko Tui Lau		600 0 0	..	200 0 0
,, Cakaudrovie		360 0 0	..	120 0 0
,, Tai Levu		340 0 0	..	113 6 8
,, Bua		220 0 0	..	73 6 8
,, Macuata		220 0 0	..	55 0 0
,, Rewa		200 0 0	..	66 13 4
,, Kadavu		200 0 0	..	66 13 4
,, Nadroga		100 0 0	..	29 14 5
,, Ra		100 0 0	..	33 6 8
,, Ba		100 0 0	..	33 6 8
,, Namosi		140 0 0	..	46 13 4
111 Native Bulis		639 0 0	..	213 0 0
			3,219 0 0	
			21,482 0 0	7,053 14 0

Expenditure (exclusive of Establishments).

Services.	For Period ending December 31.		For Twelve Months.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Pensions.			
Cakobau	500 0 0	..	1,500 0 0
Adi Arieta Kuila	33 6 8	..	100 0 0
Discharged soldiers (recovered from the War Office, and credited "Miscellaneous Revenue")	55 0 0		
		588 6 8	
Judicial.			
Jury fees and witnesses expenses in Crown cases	40 0 0	..	120 0 0
Coroner's fees	10 0 0	..	30 0 0
Incidentals	5 0 0	..	15 0 0
		55 0 0	
Colonial Secretary's Office.			
Stationery for all Departments	80 0 0	..	240 0 0
Printing and advertising	300 0 0		
Maintenance of Chiefs at Draiba	200 0 0		
Presents to Chiefs at Bau	100 0 0		
Incidentals	10 0 0	..	30 0 0
		690 0 0	
Hospitals.			
Medical attendance (two months)	16 13 4	..	100 0 0
Dispenser (from November 1) Nurse and Dresser	60 0 0		
Interpreter	25 0 0	..	75 0 0
Provisions	80 0 0		
Bedding and other necessaries	20 0 0		
		201 13 4	
Asylums.			
Maintenance of lunatics	50 0 0	..	150 0 0
		50 0 0	
Works.			
Rent of Public Offices	230 0 0	..	690 0 0
Rent of Dispensary	10 0 0		
Inclosing and keeping in order Cemetery	25 0 0	..	75 0 0
New buildings, viz.,: machine shed, 60*l.*; Public Offices, 288*l.*; Engineers' Barracks, 400*l.*	748 0 0		

Services.	For Period ending December 31.			For Twelve Months.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Repairs to buildings	250	0	0	..		
Material for lighting, and repairs to streets and bridges in Levuka	100	0	0	..		
				1,363	0	0
Stores, &c.						
Office furniture, 200*l.*; iron rails, water-pipes, &c., 750*l.*; sundry stores, 100*l.*	1,050	0	0			
Stores for steamer	50	0	0			
				1,100	0	0
Police and Gaols.						
Rations for 250 native Constables, including clothing and allowances	700	0	0			
Travelling expenses, Police and Prisoners	150	0	0			
Ditto, Superintendent	12	0	0	..		
				862	0	0
Gaols.						
Rations for prisoners, including clothing and allowances ..	60	0	0	..		
Medical attendance at prison	12	10	0	..		
Incidentals	5	0	0	..		
				77	10	0
Treasury.						
Incidentals	5	0	0	..		
				5	0	0
Postal.						
Freight on mails	40	0	0	..		
Incidentals	10	0	0	..		
				50	0	0
Customs and Harbour Offices.						
2 boats' crews	6	0	0	..		
Rations for same	12	0	0	..		
Incidentals	5	0	0	..		
Extra Boarding Officer	15	0	0	..		
Repairs to boats	100	0	0	..		
Purchase of boats	150	0	0			
				288	0	0
Military.						
Working pay	630	5	0	..		
Colonial pay and arrears	369	8	8	..		
				999	13	8
Provincial.						
Travelling expenses and allowances for 8 stipendiary Magistrates, at 74*l.*	185	4	1	..		
Travelling expenses of the Commissioner of Lands ..	12	0	0	..		
				197	4	1
General Transport.						
Inspection tour of Stipendiary Magistrate of Lau	50	0	0			
Travelling expenses connected with district of Macuata ..	50	0	0			
Removal of natives from Koro	60	0	0			
Incidentals	25	0	0			
				185	0	0
Immigration.						
Expenses connected with depôt	160	0	0	..		
Ditto, returning foreign labourers	1,000	0	0			
				1,160	0	0
Miscellaneous.						
Payment to Fiji Bank on account of overdraft	5,000	0	0			
Remittance on account of amount advanced by Bank of New South Wales	5,500	0	0			
Ditto, Government of New South Wales	1,082	4	6			
Steamer, cost of purchase	6,000	0	0			
Maintenance of steamer	80	0	0			
Interest on account bank overdraft (Fiji Bank)	50	0	0			
				17,712	4	6
				25,584	12	3
Total Establishments	7,053	14	0			
Total exclusive of Establishments	25,584	12	3			
Total estimate of Expenditure	32,638	6	3			

No. 22.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. Gordon, G.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(*Received February* 14, 1876.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, December* 13, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a correspondence which has taken place between Mr. Lodder, the Manager of the Auckland Steam Packet Company, and myself.

2. Mr. Lodder made two proposals: first, that the Colony should subsidize the steamer "Llewellyn" for a mail service between New Zealand and Fiji; second, that pending the decision on the tenders to be sent in for the performance of the inter-insular service, it should be temporarily carried on in one of their vessels for a period of four months, at a cost of 300*l.* per mensem.

3. With this latter offer I have, with the concurrence of my Executive Council, thought it expedient to close, and I have to ask your Lordship's approval of the expenditure thus about to be incurred. The early commencement of this service is of the most vital importance to the whole of the white settlers in Fiji, and I regret that it should have already been so long, though unavoidably, delayed.

4. Should the mail-steamers between San Francisco and Sydney not call at Kadavu, as originally intended, it may become necessary to subsidize a steamer for mail communication, and, in this case, Auckland will probably be the best point with which to communicate, although, before any determination on this subject was arrived at, it would be necessary carefully to consider the arguments, which are not without much weight, in favour of preferring a connection with Sydney or Brisbane.

Under other circumstances than those of the omission of Fiji from the ports of call of the Pacific line, such a subsidy would be manifestly unnecessary; I have, therefore, in replying to Mr. Lodder, confined myself to informing him that his proposal would be transmitted for your Lordship's consideration.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 22.

Sir, *Levuka, November* 17, 1875.

WITH reference to the interview of Mr. J. C. Smith and myself with your Excellency this morning:—

1st. *Re* Insular Steam Service around the Fijian group, and also with regard to a subsidy for the "Llewellyn;" I have the honour to inform your Excellency that Mr. J. C. Smith and myself have carefully gone into the details of the distances and time required to perform the service, as stated in schedules A and B herewith.

Schedule A, which has a steaming distance of about 277 miles, and allowing sufficient time for detention (viz., shipping and discharging cargo, &c.), will take about ten days to perform.

2nd. Schedule B, which has a steaming distance of a little over 400 miles, allowing sufficient time at each port for loading and discharging cargo, will require say fifteen days to perform. This would make a twenty-five days' service to complete the total distances, as contained in Schedules A and B, leaving five days at Levuka, which might be used to keep the vessel in good repair. I am therefore prepared to undertake to run this service with the steam-ship "Star of the South," for a period of four or six months, for the sum of 350*l.* per month.

3rd. I would most respectfully beg to submit another proposition, that the detention at some of the places should be curtailed, as also the lay days, to make it a twenty-two days' service, so as to connect with the "Llewellyn," thus making a complete service of the Group in twenty-two days, which I would recommend, as it would form a continuous line of connection between New Zealand and the various islands.

This service I am prepared to undertake with the "Star of the South" for the sum of 300*l.* per trip, as per schedules A and B.

4th. With reference to the subsidy for the "Llewellyn," I beg to inform your Excellency that my Directors have expended nearly 20,000*l.* to endeavour to develop

the trade of these islands, and I would most respectfully beg that your Excellency would favourably consider the advisability of supplementing the subsidy given by the New Zealand Government, by 100*l.* per month.

I am, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM LODDER, *Marine Engineer, Manager of the Auckland Steam-Packet Company.*

His Excellency Sir Arthur Gordon, K.C.M.G.,
Governor of Fiji.

SCHEDULE (A).

	Miles.
Levuka to Viti Levu Bay	43
Viti Levu Bay to Raki Raki	10
Raki Raki to Vutia Point	22
Vutia Point to Tauran	19
Vunda to Nadroga	40
Nadroga to Navua	47
Navuna to Suva	23
Navuna to Rewa	30
Rewa to Levuka	43

SCHEDULE (B).

	Miles.
Levuka to Bua	53
Bua to Taviuna viâ Savu Savu	94
Vuna Point to Mate	23
Mate to Loma Loma	70
Loma Loma to Koro	116
Koro to Mokogai	30
Mokogai to Levuka	16

Inclosure 2 in No. 22.

Sir, *Colonial Secretary's Office, Levuka, November,* 1875.

I AM directed by his Excellency the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter to him of the 17th instant, and to inform you in reply that, with regard to the proposal made by you on the part of the Auckland Steam-packet Company, Limited, to enter into an agreement to perform the inter-insular service of the Colony with your steamer "Star of the South," pending the conclusion of permanent arrangements for the complete carrying out of the service desired, the Government is prepared, with some slight modifications and additions, to accept the terms of your offer.

2. His Excellency is of opinion that your proposal to run the complete service, as detailed in Schedules A and B, attached to your letter under acknowledgment, in twenty-two days, besides being evidently best suited to the interests of your Company, is perhaps better calculated to meet the views and requirements of the Government than the slower service of twenty-five days, I am therefore directed to inform you that the Government is prepared to accept your offer to perform the twenty-two days' service once in each calendar month, in accordance with the routes indicated in the Schedules above mentioned, and that it will undertake to pay the Company for this service a subsidy of 300*l.* a-month, the time to commence from the departure of the "Star of the South" from Levuka on her first trip.

3. The Government would offer no objection to your proposition to make a complete trip every twenty-two days, so as to connect with your steamer "Llewellyn" on each occasion of her projected arrivals at Levuka from Auckland, thus forming a continued line of communication between New Zealand and the various islands of this Group; but as I have before intimated, any increase on that account of the susidy of 300*l.* per month cannot be favourably entertained.

4. The Government would prefer to enter into the above agreement for a period of four rather than six months, subject, however, to an option of renewal of two months, and would be willing to give notice of such renewal at least one month before the expiration of the first four months.

5. In consideration of the subsidy above-mentioned, the Government would expect the Company to carry Her Majesty's mails, Government officers travelling

on duty, and police and prisoners, free of charge, save such as may accrue for maintenance while on board.

6. The Company will be expected to enter into a bond for the due performance of its engagements.

7. With regard to your application for a subsidy in aid of the service which your Company has undertaken to perform between New Zealand and this Colony with the steamer "Llewellyn," I am desired by his Excellency to state that he is not empowered to authorize expenditure of such a nature without special sanction from the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

His Excellency will have much pleasure in forwarding a copy of your application to Lord Carnarvon for his Lordship's consideration.

8. In conclusion, his Excellency desires me to express his high appreciation of the spirit of enterprise evinced by the Company represented by you, and his best desires for its prosperity and success.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. E. HAVELOCK, *Colonial Secretary.*

Wm. Lodder, Esq.,
Manager, Auckland Steam-Packet Company, Levuka.

Inclosure 3 in No. 22.

Memorandum.

MY letter dated 20th November, 1875, was handed by me to Mr. Lodder, the Manager of the Auckland Steam-Packet Company, a few hours before he started for New Zealand.

He informed me, after reading the letter over in my presence, that he was certain that the modifications and additions made to his original proposal would meet with no objection from his Directors, but that it was beyond his power to accede to them formally.

He finally engaged that the "Star of the South" should be in Fiji ready to begin the inter-insular service about the 7th December, 1875.

(Signed) A. E. HAVELOCK, *Colonial Secretary.*

December 2, 1875.

Inclosure 4 in No. 22.

Sir, *Queen Street Wharf, Auckland, December* 3, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 20th November, having reference to an inter-insular steam service, to be performed by the "Star of the South" around the Fijian Group.

2. I am instructed by my Directors to inform you that they agree to accept the contract for the above-named service, in terms of your letter, for a period of four or six months, subject, however, to your Government giving the necessary notice if the term should be for a longer period than four months.

3. With regard to the bond given by this Company, I have the honour to inform you that Mr. J. C. Smith will be empowered by this Company to enter into and sign the necessary bond for carrying out the service.

4. The "Star of the South" will leave here about Tuesday next, the 7th instant, and will at once commence the inter-insular service.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM LODDER, *Manager and Engineer, Auckland Steam-Packet Company.*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
Levuka.

No. 23.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(*Received February* 14, 1876.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, December* 13, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to report that I have at last, but too late to make use of them by this mail, received the statistics with regard to the measles, which I have been so long expecting.

2. I am unable as yet to make an abstract of them, but, so far as I can see, the deaths will not amount to less than 40,000

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

No. 24.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, February* 28, 1876.

I HAVE received with satisfaction your despatch of the 16th November,* inclosing copies of the reports which you had received from Mr. Carew of the state of affairs in Viti Levu.

I request that you will convey to Mr. Carew my appreciation of the ability with which he has conducted the mission which he was selected to undertake.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 25.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(*Received March* 6, 1876.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, December* 27, 1875.

IN my despatch of the 30th October last,† I inclosed a Memorandum, by Mr. J. B. Thurston, on the subject of the continuance in force of Native Laws. I now inclose two other Minutes on the same subject, the one written by Mr. W. C. Carew, my Commissioner to the Kai Colos, and the other by the Rev. F. Langham, the head of the Wesleyan Mission.

2. Both these gentlemen have a profound knowledge of the people and country, and are men of an ability which entitles their opinions to the most respectful consideration.

3. I should have forwarded these papers sooner had I not intended to have Mr. Thurston's paper printed, and those now transmitted printed with it. But the pressure upon the very inefficient printing establishment here has been too great to admit either of these papers, or many others of far more urgent importance being printed, nor do I see any present prospect of being able to use the press for this purpose. I can hardly say how much delay, vexation, and inconvenience have been caused by the impossibility of getting into type documents the publication of which has been imperatively required.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 25.

Minute by Mr. Carew.

Question.—WHETHER a separate system of native laws should be adopte , or whether English law in its integrity should be applied to the Colony?

I am most decidedly of the opinion that a code of native laws should be adopted as soon as practicable.

* No. 20. † No. 11.

English law is quite inapplicable to the exigencies of the native community, except in, to a certain extent, capital offences.

The natives have a perfect dread of English law—they know nothing of it. What right have we to tear down the whole system of native polity, which they all understand, without being able to substitute anything comprehensible in its place.

A white man guilty of adultery with another's wife is sued for money-damages as compensation for the loss of his wife's services, &c. What does a native know about this? He knows only that he has been grievously insulted, and has become an object of scorn and derision to his whole tribe. If the offence was committed by a man of another tribe, then his whole tribe has been insulted. They demand summary punishment of the offender. It is not with them a civil offence—it is highly criminal. The aggrieved party considers himself "moku;" he cannot hold his head up amongst his people unless the offender has received punishment.

The natives insist on punishment for adultery. If unpunished, what is sure to result? The answer is, murder, war, and rapine—ruin to all. Natives say, let the guilty man suffer; why should we all suffer for the misdeeds of that wretch?

A native's wife is his cook, his gardener, his horse and cart, his water-carrier, his fish-provider, and the bearer of children to him to take his name down to posterity. A native without at least one child is an object of pity to his tribe. If his wife leave him to go with another, he is totally undone; he regards himself as a pig; his house is uncared for, his food uncooked, his gardens overgrown with weeds; he has to rely on the assistance of his friends; the elders of his and the neighbouring tribes will cease to visit his house or to consult with him; he is a miserable creature; he is "guca," going down hill.

With reference to the necessity of punishment of fornication, it should be understood that every native woman has an owner; they are called from birth "veiwatini" or "veidavolani;" if another seduces her, the owner of the woman has been robbed. The natives apply the term "butakoca" (to steal) to fornication and adultery. He does not say so-and-so has seduced my wife or my daughter, but says my wife, &c., has been stolen from me.

Before the introduction of white men's laws, breaches of chastity were most rare. What is the case now, say at Bau, where religion has had a footing for more than thirty years? There chastity is almost unknown among the single young women, girls of high family prostituting themselves on their arrival in Levuka with common natives, half-castes, and petty shopkeepers; the parents say, if a girl steps on a white man's verandah, she is undone, yet are powerless at present to prevent it, although sometimes driven almost to desperation when thinking over the certain results to the future population of the country.

Also, since the annexation of the Colony to Great Britain, the people have been ostensibly governed according to the principles of British law alone, but have they really been so governed, except perhaps in the Law Courts of Levuka? They have not been governed according to the principles of British law alone; it has been found impossible—quite impossible. In every Court outside of Levuka people have continually been punished for breaches of the natives' laws. Break down the natives' laws, and what have you got to substitute?

Last year, a man committed a murder under circumstances of great brutality. His Chief said, "Let us not send him to Court at Naitasini to be tried in the white men's incomprehensible fashion, and then allowed to escape punishment; let us kill him at once," and they did so. This district has been Christian for several years; the Chief was a Government servant, receiving Government pay. This Chief came to an English gentleman a week after ordering the death of the criminal spoken of above, and confessed the whole affair. Fortunately, it did not come to the ears of a rash and indiscreet magistrate; the matter there ended. There has been no crime since in that large district.

What is the meaning of law—what the intention? Because, if the intention is the prevention of crime, then the native laws are most effectual. Crime, as such, is most rare amongst the natives of the interior. Why? Because the punishment is summary—inflicted at once—no going long distances with prisoners to Magistrate's Courts—no dragging off of unwilling witnesses, unwilling through natural aversion to British law, which they do not understand, and administered by aliens to them in race, colour, sympathies, &c.; no neglecting of food-plantations in the meantime; no long and wearisome adjournments to Supreme Courts, detentions for months, and sea-journeys, until at last the whole affair is more than half forgotten, and the offender gets off with a light penalty, and laughs in his sleeve.

The natives say if punishment is to be inflicted, let it be quick and summary.

With British subjects, all are by a legal fiction held to have a thorough knowledge of the laws, expect a native to do this. Will they continue to consider you a sane man and fit for magisterial duties? It would be cruelly absurd and unjust to do so. What Magistrate could have the audacity to tell a native that he must not plead ignorance of the law, &c.

No fixed law of inheritance should be made, and in this I believe I hold a different opinion to that of Mr. J. B. Thurston, for, although the brother generally succeeds in preference to the nephew, yet such is not always the case; rank of mothers has all to do with the matter, or the brother may be disliked by the tribe for want of energy, inhospitality, or for un-Chief-like practices, &c. If the tribe do not respect him, they will not "buli" him; they will give the "yagona" to the nephew.

Under British rule, in most cases, the most useless and the bad laws and customs will become impracticable and unserviceable.

British law is little understood by the British public generally; the natives know nothing of it but its uncertainty—that they know most thoroughly. Uncertainty of being punished for offences is in my opinion one of the greatest possible inducements to commit crime; it is of itself a most positive inducement in itself to crime—it acts on men's minds as a magnet acts on iron.

Again, the natives rely on the many promises made to them that they shall be ruled only by laws of easy understanding to them. They most thoroughly rely on the generosity of Her Majesty, and, in my opinion, speaking as I do for and on behalf of the natives, it would be a most cruel, unjust, and impolitic breach of faith, were their whole foundations of social law and order to be swept away and to be replaced—with what? with that it has taken 800 years to bring to its present state of uncertainty and obscurity, and which requires a life of close application to master even moderately well, and which is regarded with natural aversion and distrust by us all—the law. Finally, if British law is adopted "in globo," how is it to be enforced in the practically inaccessible valleys and cliff-tops of the interior? The attempt would bring on universal rebellion, the natives would declare themselves tired of life, and would gradually become extinct, and the government of the country would cost the Colony, or rather Great Britain, a sum of say about 200,000*l.* per annum, without any adequate return.

(Signed) W. S. CAREW.

Levuka, October 7, 1875.

Inclosure 2 in No. 25.

Minute by the Rev. F. Langham.

Question.—IS it desirable or necessary to abolish the native laws and usages which are in force in this Colony, and establish in lieu thereof the laws that are in force now in British communities?

It is of the first consequence to gain the unreserved and fullest confidence of all the natives of this Colony, not only of those who are in immediate communication with Her Majesty's Government, but of those also who are residing in the hill districts, and on distant islands, and therefore not within easy reach of head-quarters, in the disposition of Her Majesty's Government to act towards them in the government of the Colony, not only with even justice and impartiality, but also a generous consideration, and even some amount of forbearance.

Assuming that this confidence on the part of a large proportion of the people exists now, it need scarcely be remarked that it would be most unfortunate if any action were taken which would shake this confidence, and disturb the good feeling existing, as this would tend to retard the firm establishment of the Government in all its details in every part of the Group, especially in the hill districts.

Such, I fear, would be the effect of an immediate or sudden abolition of the laws and usages now in existence, which are generally well understood, and the substitution therefor of British laws.

The native laws and usages against offences are of long standing, readily comprehended, easily and promptly executed; they give fair satisfaction to the people, the justice thereof being recognized, and to a great extent effect the object aimed at by the introduction of British laws.

At the same time it may be remarked that greater efficiency and satisfaction would be secured by the administration of the native laws and usages, under the supervision and direction of Her Majesty's Government, for the native administrators need guidance and direction.

British laws as administered among English people are frequently regarded as most incomprehensible and vexatious proceedings. But to a Fijian they would simply be intolerable. They would be so difficult to understand, so expensive to set in motion, so tedious in their operations, so uncertain in their results, as they would also be oppressive and vexatious in their restraints and impositions, as to force the conviction that they are utterly unsuitable and impracticable; a conviction that would shake confidence, arouse suspicion, and induce apathy on the part of those whose co-operation is essential to the inexpensive and successful government of the native portion of the community.

Undoubtedly, in reference to some few crimes, British law would have to be enforced; but in these few instances, such as murder, &c., though the manner of their administration might not be readily understood, yet their justice and applicability would be readily and generally recognized.

There are some acts and some omissions which among the natives are regarded as grave offences, and which it is absolutely necessary to treat as such, but which are unrecorded in British law books. These could not be permitted without destroying that respect for the high Chiefs which should be shown to them, if they are to be utilized in the government of the country; and, donbtless, the simplest and most effective mode of government is through the Chiefs, under the supervision and guidance, as I have already observed, of Her Majesty's Government.

The laws, too, which the Chiefs have to administer should be few in number, of the simplest character, set forth in the fewest and simplest words, avoiding the usual legal phraseology, so that there need be no difficulty in understanding their meaning and intent, otherwise misunderstanding and injustice would arise. I think it will be allowed that these requirements are impracticable if British laws are adopted.

I have assumed, and I think it will be generally admitted, that the influence and personal efforts of the high Chiefs are necessary, for a time at all events, in carrying out the laws which may be enacted by his Excellency the Governor. It would, therefore, be highly undesirable to expose them to the risk of being treated as criminals for acts which could not be supposed by them to be offences, but which under British law would be treated as such.

This would be destructive of their dignity and influence, would alienate their sympathies from the Government, and lead them to regard the operations of law as simply vexatious and oppressive.

A case or two in point have come under my observation this week.

A Chief took possession of an intestate estate, and disposed of the personal property and growing crops in such a manner as, under British law, to secure his arrest for felony, and after some detention in the lock-up, examination before a Magistrate, committal for trial, his conviction in the Supreme Court of the Colony, and punishment for some considerable period on the public works of the Colony.

The same Chief arrested and detained for five days in his own house a woman who declined to marry the man to whom she had been betrothed.

I presume in this case also he had exposed himself to prosecution under British law.

Now it would have been impolitic in itself, and harsh and cruel to the Chief, to instigate proceedings against him; he had no conception of the nature of the above as offences against British law; his judgment was simply at fault. Appealed to on behalf of the aggrieved parties, who were members of my church, I made a respectful communication to the Roko of the province, pointing out the error committed; a decision was arrived at in a few minutes, that the property should be returned to the widow and daughter; that the woman should be informed that she might marry whomsoever she pleased, and that the Chief should be notified that he was acting improperly.

By this decision the aggrieved parties would be satisfied, and they would also be saved several wearisome journeys and appearances at Court; the Chief would be shown his mistake; he is saved from disgrace and imprisonment, is retained in his Government appointment, and he and his friends and relatives are not soured and irritated by what would have been cruel and unjust, though perfectly legal, treatment, while the Government is saved much time, trouble, and expense.

The expenses to be incurred by parties seeking redress before the law could be set in operation would be an insuperable difficulty to most aggrieved persons.

Few comparatively could avail themselves of the intervention of our law courts to establish their rights and redress their wrongs.

The payment required for a summons, for witnesses expenses, for feeing a lawyer, costs, &c., would be simply prohibitory of justice to a people who are seldom in possession of coin, and whose trading transactions are principally exchanges of property, seldom receiving payment in money. Consequently wrongs would go unredressed, violation of the law would be repeated by those who had already transgressed with impunity, a strong feeling of dissatisfaction would prevail, there would be recourse to club law thereupon, as such proceedings could not be tolerated, law would soon be shown to be operative against those who thus avenged themselves; the Government, towards whose support these injured persons contribute, and which was expected to protect them from wrong, would be compelled to take action, which would entail trouble and expense upon the authorities.

The results would probably be that the original wrong doer would escape punishment, the wronged one would suffer a double injury, the impression would be made that while that which was called law had been administered, simple justice had not been done; a feeling of contempt for laws which could contribute to such results would be aroused, and of hatred of those who were charged with their enforcement.

As indicative of what may follow upon a loss of confidence in the administration of justice, the following case may be given.

A native had an altercation with his overseer, who was supposed to be armed, and fearing he would be shot the native threw away his gardening knife, saying to his companions, "I shall be killed to-day; but I will give this man no provocation, nor will I attempt to defend myself, but when I am killed fall upon this man and avenge me; remember the Levuka trial (referring to a case in which two men were acquitted on a charge of killing one of his neighbours), he will not be convicted if he is taken there, I therefore call upon you to avenge me."

To establish British laws now, and have hereafter to abolish them and return to native laws and usages, would be a most humiliating confession of error, and suggestive of weakness and incapacity, that might be taken advantage of, while to persist in enforcing laws after they were found to be harsh and oppressive, would be both undignified and impolitic, and not in harmony with the intimations given by Her Majesty's Government of its purpose to deal with justice and generosity towards its newly acquired subjects.

It would be easy, prudent, and politic to build upon the foundation already existing, and add to the code of native laws, by incorporating therewith a few English Ordinances, as the people advance in civilization, and as circumstances indicate the necessity for their enactment.

In addition to the question of expense to the governed (as well as to the Government), if the requirements of British law are to be observed, there is also another point to be observed, namely, the difficulties of travelling from island to island, and from the inland districts to the coast. The conveyance of prisoners to and fro, the compulsory attendance of prosecutors and witnesses in criminal cases, of plaintiffs, defendants, and witnesses in civil cases, from hill districts not easily traversed, and islands so widely scattered, with the most inadequate and uncertain means of locomotion—indeed the people on many of the islands, especially to the windward, would be unable to command the means of attendance at Court if held on other islands than their own (and it would be quite impracticable to carry the entire machinery of our law courts to every island), would be a most grievous and intolerable burden, and in numerous cases the parties referred to would decline, or be unable to attend; hence criminals would escape, the ends of justice be defeated, and dissatisfaction be wide spread.

Take a case. A highly respectable and intelligent young Chief has asked me to instruct him how to obtain a divorce from his wife, whose infidelity is well known to several on the island where she resides. This island, however, is seventy miles from where the husband resides. It is a very rare thing indeed for a vessel to visit this distant island. Now, it is scarcely possible for a messenger to be dispatched to deliver summonses to the woman, the co-respondents, and the witnesses; and it is next to certain that if the summonses were served, the parties could not find the means to attend the only Court that could decide the case, nor would they be in a position to procure necessary food if they could obtain lodging, nor would there be

any certainty of their getting home again under several months; it might be an adjournment of the case. Under these circumstances, and I have not named all the difficulties of this case, I have advised him that the course to be pursued under British law is absolutely impracticable to him, and that he must simply accept the position and endure the wrong.

The foregoing remarks will apply to various other cases, such as offences against chastity, adultery, seduction, fornication, &c., the punishment of which should be certain, prompt, easy of execution, and in proportion to the gravity of these offences. This is impossible if British law only be applied in such cases.

The most intelligent and civilized of the Fijians, who, from their intercourse with Europeans, have acquired some knowledge of the operations and uncertainties of British law, have said that the attempt to impose these laws upon the large majority of their countrymen would be as unhappy in its results as would be the attempt to fix the masts of an English vessel in one of their small canoes—a well understood, and, to the Fijian, most significant illustration of the unsuitability and harmful tendency of these laws as administered by English people.

A case which came before the Law Courts at Levuka a few days ago suggests the irritating hardships to which the adoption of British laws respecting the trespass of stock, &c., would expose the natives.

If the people, who are agriculturists, be required to fence their many small plantations against cattle, an intolerable burden will be imposed npon them; knowing that even the most industrious can earn but a few pounds per annum, many not more than 3*l.* (numbers are now working for 1*s.* per week, and pay their taxes), and that they do not plant continuously the same plots of land, and that each will have several plots under cultivation at the same time, as yams, taro, banana, &c; and yet to expect them to erect substantial fences against cattle, which will involve an outlay of many pounds, would be considered an unreasonable and unjust requirement, impossible of performance; while the establishment of such a number of pounds in a Colony of islands as would be necessary, if cattle-stations be multiplied, would be almost equally impossible. And certainly the natives, who are very timid with cattle, are not likely to avail themselves of these institutions by driving thereto, distances of many miles in numerous instances, cattle or other stock that may trespass upon their plantations.

Under the above circumstances, agriculture will be discouraged; the people involved in distress; and the Government would have eventually to remove the agriculturists in the vicinity of cattle-stations to other districts, where they would be undisturbed in their planting operations, and considerable discontent would be occasioned thereby.

To conclude: the present native laws and usages against offences committed amongst themselves, with the addition of some few English laws to meet special cases, administered under the direction and sanction of Her Majesty's Government, would give fair satisfaction to the people, because their import and effect are easily comprehended; expense and trouble would be saved; justice would usually be done; order and good behaviour would be promoted; and the impression would be given that while Her Majesty's Government is resolved to act with justice and impartiality, there shall also be evinced a generous forbearance and a kind consideration of the peculiar circumstances of its newly-acquired subjects, a conviction that would produce the happiest results.

(Signed) F. LANGHAM.

No. 26.

Governor the Hon Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received March 6.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, January* 19, 1876.

IN previous despatches I have intimated my intention of holding a meeting with the heathen tribes of the interior living on the plains of the Sigatoka, and among the mountains at the head of that river, whose attitude has lately caused so much uneasiness in some quarters.

2. This meeting took place on the 5th instant at a place called Navala, on the south coast of Viti Levu.

3. About 1,500 or 2,000 persons, chiefly mountaineers, attended this meeting. A few Chiefs whose presence had been expected and was desired, did not make their appearance, but the general result of the meeting was highly satisfactory, and will, I have no doubt, be attended with permanently good results.

4. A strong body of armed constabulary has, with the entire assent of the mountaineers, been established at a camp where the Commissioner will live in the centre of the wildest tribes. I look upon this as the first step towards the completion of the subjugation of the mountains.

5. A glance at the map will show your Lordship that the Island of Viti Levu is divided into two nearly equal portions by a high chain of mountains running north and south. The tribes living to the east of this line were all able to attend the great meeting at Navuso held last year, and although Chiefs from the Sigatoka were present at that meeting, they were of course less numerously represented than those from the other half of the island. The tribes to the east of the dividing range have been perfectly quiet ever since the meeting at Navuso, and I trust the present meeting may exercise as salutary an influence.

6. As soon as the proceedings of the meeting and the address made to those present have been transcribed, they will, of course, be forwarded to your Lordship. Meanwhile, I inclose a very imperfect account of what took place, extracted from a local newspaper.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

Inclosure in No. 26.

Newspaper Extract.

Cruise of his Excellency.—HIS Excellency and staff embarked at Suva in Her Majesty's ship "Nymph" early on Tuesday morning, and proceeded down the coast to Serua, which was reached in a few hours. In the afternoon the Governor landed, accompanied by the Captain and several officers of the "Nymph," and was received by the Stipendiary Magistrate, Mr. Carew, and Dr. Macgregor, who had arrived in the "Fitzroy." A large number of natives had assembled to meet the Governor, who proceeded to the Chief's house, where, after the usual ceremony of reception, his Excellency had some conversation with the Chiefs on local topics, and then attended an examination of the school children. The proceedings terminated with a meke.

On Thursday morning the "Nymph" left Suva and steamed to the opening in the reef opposite Na Vola, where his Excellency and staff were landed, and the "Nymph," after firing a salute as his Excellency stepped on shore, returned to her anchorage at Serua. The Governor proceeded at once to the native house that had been built for his accommodation, and there received visits from many of the Chiefs. The presents of food brought by the different tribes were then distributed amongst the natives attending the meeting which took place in the afternoon. About 1,500 natives were present, most of whom were mountaineers, chiefly from the wild tribes of the interior of the Sigatoka River. It was explained to the Kai Colos that the Queen, and the Governor, as Her Majesty's Representative, must be acknowledged; that murder and private wars must be given up, as well as theft and the forcible carrying off of women; that any of these crimes would be punished severely; and they were particularly warned that they must not mistake delay in punishment for pardon. It might be difficult and sometimes impossible at once to lay hold of offenders, but they might be sure that the Governor's mind was quite made up to punish such offences, and that, however long it took him to accomplish it, that those committing them should not escape with impunity. But, if they followed the path now pointed out to them, they would find that there was no disposition to harass or oppress them in any way. They were also informed, and seemed well pleased with the intimation, that a camp, where his Excellency's Commissioner, Mr. Carew, would live, together with a large body of police, was to be at once established in the heart of their district. [We hope at a subsequent period to be able to give in greater detail the substance of an address of which we have only been able here to mention one or two salient points.]

The proceedings passed off most satisfactorily, the natives apparently taking

the greatest interest in the speeches addressed to them. Mr. Carew acted as his Excellency's interpreter.

In the evening there were some mekes, those danced by the big-headed Kai Colos being the most curious.

Late in the evening his Excellency received all the principal Chiefs at his house, and, during a conversation which lasted some hours, many important points were settled and satisfactory arrangements made.

Nothing could have been more orderly than the conduct of the natives who had flocked in such large numbers to Na Vola to attend the meeting. Not the slightest disturbance of any sort took place.

On the way back to Suva his Excellency visited the Island of Bega, and expressed himself to be much pleased with the beauty of its scenery. The "Nymph" anchored at Suva on Saturday afternoon. The weather during the whole trip had been beautifully fine, if a little too hot to be called quite pleasant.

The "Fitzroy" left Serua a few hours after the departure of the Governor. She carries Captain Olive and 150 members of the police force to Nadi, whence they will start on their march for their camp in the interior.

No. 27.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, March* 14, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 13th of December last,* recording your conviction that the number of deaths from the recent epidemic amounted to no less than 40,000. I have to express to you my deep regret that the more complete inquiries which have now been made indicate the mortality caused by the measles in Fiji to have been after all so very great.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 28.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, March* 22, 1876.

I HAVE had under my consideration the Memoranda by Mr. Carew and the Rev. F. Langham on the subject of the continuation of native laws in Fiji, which formed the inclosures to your despatch of the 27th December.†

My despatch of the 10th ultimo‡ will have informed you that I should regret to see an indiscriminate application of English law to the natives of the Colony, whose customs and social usages should be respected so far as is compatible with natural equity, morality, and order, and I perceive that the measures which have hitherto been passed by the Legislature of Fiji indicate that you fully appreciate the importance of carrying out these views. I would further observe that the Ordinance (No. 14) for the establishment of a Supreme Court of Judicature, which was passed in accordance with the recommendations of this Department, provides by its 28th section for the extension to the Colony of Imperial laws only so far as the circumstances of the Colony permit, and leaves it open to the Legislature of the Colony to make such alterations in the laws and to impose such limitations upon these applications as the peculiar circumstances of the case may require. Indeed section 35 of the Ordinance enacts that "it shall be lawful for the Governor from time to time by a Proclamation to be published in the 'Royal Gazette' to declare that the jurisdiction vested in the Supreme Court under the Act shall not extend to any district, or part of a district, of the Colony specified in such Proclamation, or that such jurisdiction shall only be exercised over any particular class of the inhabitants thereof, and every such Proclamation from time to time to revoke

* No. 23. † No. 2 ‡ No. 17.

or amend, and the jurisdiction of the Court shall not be exercised otherwise than subject to the limitations contained in such Proclamation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 29.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received March 29.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, January 26, 1876.*

I HAVE carefully re-read my despatch of the 21st August last,* and I confess that I am unable to see in what manner I have misapprehended the course your Lordship intended me to pursue. I fear that, on the contrary, I must myself have used ambiguous language, which has failed to render my own meaning clear.

2. I had, and have, no difficulty whatever as to the application of the "broad principles" laid down in your Lordship's despatch.

3. They are principles in the soundness of which I heartily concur, and to give effect to which I always perceived, and was glad to perceive, that it was your Lordship's intention that I should, if necessary, call to my aid the Legislative as well as Executive powers of the Government. But the despatch does not only lay down broad principles,—it does more. It asserts that a certain deed has had a definite and particular effect and operation. This is not the enunciation of a principle, but the statement of a fact, and this a fact which has not been suffered to remain unquestioned.

4. The principle laid down by your Lordship, and the soundness of which I think unquestionable, is that Crown grants should be deemed essential to the confirmation of title, that such grants should be made to all *bonâ fide* purchasers of land previous to the Cession; but that of such *bonâ fides* the Crown shall be the judge.

5. If all the lands of the Colony were transferred to the Queen by the deed of Cession, power to effect the desired object has been already placed in the hands of the Government, and legislation respecting it is unnecessary; all that is required being a public declaration of the fact. If such rights over the land are not given by the deed of Cession, it would still be desirable to confer them on the Crown by Ordinance; but in this case it could hardly be said that rights that were, in fact, conferred by the Ordinance were conferred not by it, but by the deed of Cession.

6. It was on these points that I wished for an authoritative explanation, it being contended here, first, that the assertion contained in paragraph 13 (1) of your Lordship's despatch is erroneous; secondly, that if this be so, and if the rights claimed for the Crown were not conferred by the deed of Cession, it is beyond the competence of the local legislature to confer them by subsequent enactment; and thirdly, that the decision of a law court being requisite to establish the rights of claimants, the recommendation of the Lands' Commission, even when approved by the Executive Council, and confirmed by your Lordship, are valueless and nugatory.

7. I believe, with your Lordship, that the rights in question are conferred by the deed of Cession. It was, nevertheless, my intention to have passed an Ordinance to remove all doubt on the subject; and if I have, from prudential reasons, abstained from pressing this measure, your Lordship will, I hope, give me credit for not having done so without grave cause.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

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* No. 31 of C. 1404 of 1876.

No. 30.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(*Received March* 29.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, February* 16, 1876.

IN my despatch of the 30th October last,* I brought under your Lordship's notice the difficult and important question of native law.

The question of native taxation is neither less important nor less difficult, and all attempts hitherto made to deal with it have only resulted in total failure.

2. Forming, as they do, ninety-nine hundredths of the inhabitants of the Colony, causing, as they do, a large part of its expenditure for police, administration of justice, &c., it is only right that the native population should contribute, and that in no inconsiderable measure, to defray expenses incurred—as to some extent they undoubtedly are—for their protection and on their behalf. The mode in which such contribution may best be made, is, however, by no means easy of determination. To the ordinary sources of revenue, the natives pay little or nothing. They use few articles on which duties are leviable, they do not consume spirits, they do not take out licences, and they have no need of stamps. Any impost felt by them must, therefore, be one of a special character.

3. The tax imposed on natives by Cakobau's Government was an uniform poll-tax of 1*l.* per man and 4*s.* per woman throughout the Group. I, however, find it difficult, and indeed impossible, to suppose that revenue was the object contemplated in the imposition of this tax, or that its payment was ever seriously looked for. If any such expectations existed, they were doomed to disappointment, for the largest sum ever obtained in any one year from a population of, at that time, certainly not less than 150,000, was [*sic in orig.*] And of this sum a large part, as I will presently explain, was not, in fact, received from natives as payment of their tax, or indeed from natives at all.

4. I believe that the main design of the native poll-tax, when first imposed, and as it existed on the arrival of the Royal Commissioners, was that of furnishing, through its instrumentality, a large supply of labour to the plantations of the white settlers. And in this respect it no doubt worked successfully. The unknown consequences of disobedience to the order of the "Mataintu," exercised a mysterious terror over the minds of the natives, which induced them, in many cases, in consideration of the advance of their taxes on the part of a planter, to contract with him for a year or more of gratuitous service. These, however, were of course the exceptions. In the majority of cases, the tax was simply not paid, and could not be paid. When this happened, the legal penalty for default was six months' labour on the plantation of any settler who would pay to the Government the amount of the defaulters' tax. But though six months was the limit allowed by law for such assignment, the Magistrates of that day were not very scrupulous in their reading of the Act, and sentences of a year, and even eighteen months, were very frequently pronounced, whilst by a judicious system of imposing heavy costs, and assuming that the default of their payment might be similarly punished by "imprisonment on a plantation," even these periods were almost indefinitely extended.

A faint glimpse, and but a faint glimpse, of the working of this system is given by some of the Inclosures to Sir H. Robinson's despatch of the 16th of October, 1874.† The more search I have made into the records of this time, and the better I become acquainted with their contents, the darker does that period appear to me. I have in vain endeavoured to obtain accurate statistics of the numbers torn from their homes and consigned to servitude under the operation of this law, but its effects are sufficiently visible. Whole districts have been well nigh depopulated, and the reckless deportation of the male inhabitants has left the formerly fine Provinces of Ba and Ra almost deprived of cultivators. The memory of these times is terrible to the native population, and I should profoundly deprecate any step which might seem to be in the direction of renewing them.

5. I should add that the amount paid by planters to Government for these assignments of labour appear under the head of native taxes, as do also, of course, those to which I have previously referred, where the payment was made by the native, though advanced by the planter.

With these deductions, the amount of tax actually paid becomes very small; but even of this small amount, a large portion, as mentioned by Sir H. Robinson, in

* No. 11.

† No. 6 of C. 1114 of 1875.

his despatch of the 16th October, 1874,* was actually paid in kind, the articles taken being, as mentioned by Sir H. Robinson, estimated at a low valuation, or, as I was particularly informed by the late Commodore Goodenough, invariably at a third or fourth of their proper value.

6. Sir H. Robinson felt strongly the impossibility of maintaining such a system. He at once abolished it, and substituted an arrangement by which all but adult males were excused from taxation, and the tax of these men fixed at twenty days' labour in the year, redeemable by money payments of various amounts, according to the supposed wealth or poverty of the district in which they lived.

7. Sir H. Robinson, I fancy, imagined that redemption in money of the obligation to labour would be nearly universal, and at first, accustomed as the population were to a money poll-tax, this was to a great degree the case; but, as a better knowledge of their liabilities has spread, and especially since it has been found that the redemption payment cannot, as heretofore, be made in kind, there has been a disposition to claim the right of discharging the obligation by three weeks' labour.

8. This, therefore, is the problem which I have had presented to me:—Should I continue the labour-tax of 1874; should I re-enact and attempt to enforce a direct tax in money; or should I endeavour to provide some substitute for the existing system which should bring larger return to the treasury, and yet be neither oppressive nor opposed to the traditionary habits and feelings of the people?

9. The labour-tax in its existing form is clearly unsustainable. It is impossible to transport the whole population for twenty days to those places where public works are being carried on. Such places are few, and in most districts of the Colony there are really no public works for the inhabitants to be employed upon. In such cases, either works have to be invented which are not needed, and which lead to an employment (or rather waste of labour) in no way beneficial to the Colony, as well as an expense of supervision wholly thrown away, or the tax is quietly permitted to fall into disuse.

10. The practical alternative, therefore, was the renewal of the poll-tax of the old Fijian Government, or the substitution of some system as yet untried in this Colony.

I have already mentioned some of the reasons which rendered a return to the poll-tax of former times impolitic and objectionable; but even if it were not associated in the minds of the natives with ideas of tyranny and misrule, and were as efficient as it proved in fact an inefficient agent in the production of revenue, I should still think it open to objections which would be in my mind fatal to it:—

(1.) Its inequality of incidence, the great Chief and the poorest servant paying alike.

(2.) The facilities it affords for corruption. The Collectors are necessarily, for the most part, natives of inferior rank—often mere local constables or less, and the instances of favouritism, on the one hand, and oppression on the other, are, I have every reason to believe countless.

(3.) Its individuality; and this I think one of its greatest faults as a system of native taxation. Among natives the individual invariably acts as part of a family or village, and the traditional feeling of centuries will only slowly change under the influence of altered times and manners. As yet no change has taken place in this respect, and it is necessary to accept the fact, deal with it as we may.

11. But if the idea of re-enacting a poll-tax be abandoned, no other direct money-tax can be imposed. In fact, there is a species of absurdity in the imposition of pecuniary taxation on a population nine-tenths of which possess no money. I know it is said that if they do not possess money, they, at least, might all become possessed of it by engaging to work for planters. I confess I am unable to see the force of the argument. The ordinary wages given by a planter to an able-bodied man are 1*s.* a week, or 2*l.* 12*s.* per annum. This is a small sum from which to pay a tax ranging from 1*l.* downwards, even if the wages be paid in money, and not in worthless "trade." Whether it is to the native's advantage to leave his taro patch and yam plantations, his own village, his generally comfortable home and his family, to work on some distant estate for 52*s.* may be questioned, nor do I think he can reasonably be expected to do so, except under strong compulsion.

12. But if a money tax be not enforced, all that remains is the alternative of contributions in produce, or the performance of gratuitous services. Either of these aids to Government would be in accordance with the habits and usages of the people, but there are obvious reasons why the latter should, if possible, be avoided.

* No. 6 of C. 1114 of 1875.

13. The idea of a tax in produce which should be so managed as to promote cultivation and foster production among the natives, had crossed my mind previous to my arrival here. This idea was not discouraged by Sir H. Robinson, and received warm support from some of those best acquainted with native usages and modes of thought. After my arrival, the same plan was independently proposed to me from more than one quarter.

I inclose a copy of a Memorandum submitted to me by Mr. Thurston on the subject, and I have also received papers in a similar sense from Mr. Wilkinson, Mr. Carew, and others, copies of which, when they have been transcribed, will be forwarded to your Lordship. At the great meeting of the Chiefs at Draiba, the payment of taxes in produce was warmly advocated and strongly recommended to me.

14. The payment of taxes in money is of course preferable to their payment in kind, but, payment in money being impracticable, the real question in this case was between payment in kind or payment in labour, if any payment is to be made at all.

Although taxation in money is preferable and taxation in kind unusual, the the latter is by no means unknown or unprecedented in a British possession. The present Earl Grey, who, by the way, was perfectly aware that, in semi-civilized communities, "taxation may be more easily and justly levied in the shape of tribute from the tribe than that of taxes due from individuals," once wrote as follows to the late Sir Harry Smith: "The most convenient form of imposing a land tax in a rude state of society, I believe to be that of requiring from all who cultivate the soil a tithe or some fixed proportion of the produce as their contribution towards the public expenditure. This is a mode of raising a revenue for public purposes, which seems to have been the first adopted by mankind in the earliest stages of civilization, and to have prevailed generally among all nations in the remotest periods of which we know anything from history, while in Asia it continues to the present day to be almost universal. It is also a mode of taxation which, in any early stage of civilization, when money is scarce, and when little capital has been invested in land, seems to be the least burdensome that can be had recourse to, though in a more advanced state of society it is the reverse."

In the soundness of the principle of these remarks I entirely concur.

15. After much consideration, I came to the following conclusions:—

(1.) That the native taxation, to be effective, must be levied on the district or village, rather than on individuals.

(2.) That a tax of produce could be easily raised, with the best possible pecuniary results, and with the yet greater advantage of stimulating native industry and largely increasing the amount of trade in the Group.

(3.) That it would be undesirable that the Government should take part in any complicated trading operations or commercial dealings.

16. The plan I devised to carry out these conclusions was as follows:—

That the Legislative Council should annually assess the amount to be paid by each province.

That the Government should invite tenders for the purchase of certain specified articles of local produce at fixed prices.

That the amount of the tax to be raised in each province should consist in the production of such quantities of one or more of these articles as will at the prices agreed on realize the amount of tax assessed by the Legislative Council.

That this produce should be brought to certain fixed points by the tax-payers, and taken over at these places at stated times by the contractors, the Government being thus relieved of all risks of transport or storeage.

17. The question which I have had to consider was one with which I was not wholly unfamiliar, for the subjects of land tenure and taxation among semi-civilized races, or races possessing a different kind of civilization from our own, though to some perhaps uninviting, have long had for me a special attraction. Nor had such a measure as that which I have described the novelty in my eyes which it may wear to others, whom it may startle, and who may possibly be disposed, in consequence, to regard it unfavourably.

18. I should, however, have wished to consult your Lordship, and, had time permitted, I should most certainly have done so. Had my mind been made up at the moment of my arrival here in June, I might have received a reply from your Lordship before the end of the year, and possibly in time to regulate the preparation of the estimates for 1876. It took me, however, some months to form a deliberate

judgment on the subject, and when at length my opinion was definitely formed, it was necessary without delay to make provision for the financial needs of the ensuing year. I could not continue the existing labour-tax,—to do so would have been to abandon all hope of realizing any considerable native revenue. And I have little doubt as to your Lordship's choice between such a system as that which I have now sketched in outline and the revival of the abandoned poll-tax.

19. The measure I have described was recommended to the Legislative Council in my Message of the 28th December, and the resolutions, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, were unanimously adopted by the Board.

An Ordinance to give effect to these resolutions was subsequently introduced, and was passed through all its stages, though it has not yet been signed or published. Of this I inclose a copy.

It provides for the annual assessment of the provinces by the Legislative Council, and for the construction of Boards of Assessment in each province, by which the necessary measures will be taken to realize the required amount.

Provision is also made for objection and appeal, as well as for the enforcement of the regulations to be framed under the Ordinance.

I shall, however, explain in greater detail the clauses of this Law when forwarding it by next mail for Her Majesty's gracious allowance and confirmation.

20. When first rumours as to the nature of the proposed taxation were publicly circulated, some alarm was excited in certain sections of the community.

The most absurd reports gained currency, to the effect that all trading on the part of the natives was to be forbidden by law, and that a system of culture closely resembling that instituted in Java by the Dutch was to be introduced throughout the Group. These tales were not confined to the Colony, and I had the pleasure of seeing a short time since in a leading New Zealand newspaper an article gravely denouncing the Ordinance passed in Fiji prohibiting the natives from trading with Europeans, of which it spoke as an undoubted fact.

As, however, the nature of the scheme became better known, a decided change of opinion was manifested, and sounder views of its character and probable effects now prevail. Indeed, I believe that its suitability to the natives and their circumstances, and the benefit it is likely to confer on agriculture and commerce, are now generally felt and appreciated.

There could not be better representatives of the Colony found than the three unofficial members of the Legislative Council, and your Lordship will perceive from the report of the debate on the first reading of the Ordinance, which I have the honour to inclose, that it was seconded by Mr. Hennings, and warmly supported by Mr. Ryder and Mr. Smith. I would also ask your Lordship's attention to the speech of the Auditor-General, Mr. Thurston, which will repay perusal.

21. I trust that your Lordship may regard this measure as I myself regard it; but I am aware that at a distance it may wear a different aspect from what it does on the spot; and, moreover, that, from very familiarity with them, I may have failed to make use of arguments which appear to me obvious, or to meet objections which are in my judgment trivial.

If, however, your Lordship should unfortunately hesitate to concur in the views which I have expressed, I would at all events ask that they should receive a fair trial. The natives have, with something like enthusiasm, everywhere begun their cultivation of produce, the organization of the districts is already far advanced, and the offers of purchases have been already made and closed with. Were the new tax system at once upset no other tax could possibly be collected in its place during the present year, and the results would be financially disastrous. In two or three years' time the effect of this measure will be fully seen. If I have erred in my estimate of its work, it may then, more or less gradually, be abandoned. If, on the other hand, it secures, as I believe it will, an abundant revenue, and one easily capable of further augmentation,—if it stimulates the industry and doubles the produce of the Colony,—if under its influence the mass of the population are content and prosperous,—it may then trust to its own merits for its future maintenance, and will stand in no need of my feeble advocacy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 30.

Memorandum upon the Establishment of District Plantations in the Colony of Fiji, for the purpose of enabling the Native Population to provide their Taxes in a manner accordant with Native Customs.

THE proposed plan of establishing plantations for the purpose of providing the natives with a means of paying their taxes, requires, perhaps, a few words in explanation before entering into a sketch of the plan itself.

In some countries taxes and rent are paid in kind instead of in money. In civilized or semi-civilized countries, or those like India and China, where the science of political economy is almost unknown, this system largely prevails. The payment of taxes in produce or kind is doubtless a bad one, for experience teaches that public revenue derived from such a source usually suffers so much from the mismanagement and peculation of the collectors, that very little of what is contributed by the people ever finds its way into the Treasury.

For these and many other reasons public revenue is better derived in money. It may, however, occur that countries exist, the people of which are rude and uncivilized, where they tenaciously adhere to the antiquated customs of their race, and where, as they have no money, the must either pay in produce or not at all. Fiji is one of such places. Its people have no money amongst themselves, and the European trading and planting population (under 900 persons) is too small to provide the bulk of them with work, or any other means of gaining money. There can be no doubt also that if it were possible to collect revenue in money, the same objection as is taken above to the levying of taxes in kind would present itself. In a young Colony like Fiji, with a large native population, the collection of revenue from natives must, in a large measure, be entrusted to native Chiefs. There are two temptations which Fijian Chiefs find it difficult to withstand. One is that of getting into debt with traders, the other is that of looking upon taxes paid to them by their tribe, on account of the Government, as in part a sort of "benevolence" to themselves. The facility with which they can get into debt, and accumulate debt upon debt, together with the constant pressure of petty creditors, is the primary cause of their appropriating public money to their own uses. This tendency to accept credit, says a late writer, "is a state of things which occurs in every part of the world in which men of a superior race freely trade with men of a lower race. It extends trade no doubt for a time, but it demoralizes the native, checks true civilization, and does not lead to any permanent increase in the wealth of the country; so that the European government of such a country must be carried on at a loss." The custom of Fijians is to pay their taxes in produce or service, and the Custom only requires to be properly defined and settled in order to produce a very fair amount of revenue from native sources at a moderate cost of collection.

At the present time there exists all the laws, customs, rights, and obligations which, unlike anything found in other large groups of islands in Western Polynesia, have for an unknown period held the Fijians together as a homogeneous people. Upon the laws, many of which are in their tendency eminently favourable to the proposed system, much improvement may be made; but I am confident that it will be better in every respect to adopt and improve them than to endeavour to frame Ordinances based upon modern ideas, and the necessities of a highly civilized state of society, and to enact them for the control of a people just emerging from barbarism. I consider that the instant and complete application of English law and freedom to the native population of this Colony would not only be fatal to a success of the culture system, but I do not hesitate to say that it would be fatal to the satisfactory raising of revenue in any shape from the natives. The only law hitherto known to the Fijian is the command of his Chief and the customs of his tribe; and it is not to be expected that the cession of the country can alter the manners and customs of its aborigines with the same speed and certainty that it it changed the sovereignty. One very valuable source of revenue is the cocoa-nut trees. But to protect these from the improvident waste of the people, the Rokos and the Chiefs of districts shoul be allowed to retain their power to "tabu." They should also have power, as heretofore, to "lavaki" cultivated lands, *i.e.*, command the people of any town in their district to perform such work upon them as they may direct. (See Note A.)

Of the necessity and results of continuous labour the Fijians have no idea whatever; at first they can only be regarded as instruments by which a system is

to be established for their benefit; and hence, as in a public school for instance, strict rules must be enacted, making a fair and proper amount of labour a matter of law, and not a matter of choice. Hereafter, when training has had its effect, and a better knowledge has been acquired of the value and right of property, the acquisitive character of the Fijian will, I think, be a sufficient spur to his industry; but for some years to come he must be made to work, and must be punished for laziness or neglect. The salvation of the race is simply a question of real kindness and forced industry, or of mistaken kindness, indolence, and consequent misery and degradation.

I have dwelt somewhat digressively upon the laws, habits, and weaknesses of the people, because I am convinced that it is, in the first instance, impossible to impose upon them British law exclusively, because it would cause an early failure of the system now under consideration, and because it would render abortive any other scheme to raise revenue from the natives, who, relieved from their old law, and ignorant of the new, would fall out of proper and necessary control.

The chief element upon the native side to the success of this scheme is, the creation of a necessity to work.

Upon the governing side, every effort should be made to improve the existing tribal organization of the natives. Very great good may be speedily effected by adding to, and gradually improving upon, such native laws and customs as are not repugnant to natural law, by interdicting oppressive ones, and by placing the natives under the direction of active and intelligent officers selected from both races.

This necessity may, in a great measure, be created by the imposition of a tax upon every male between the ages of sixteen and sixty, or, which would be better, upon every village or district, in proportion to the number of its inhabitants and the fertility and natural advantages of their lands.

In considering the nature of the articles to be produced under the culture system, it will be necessary to have regard to those that are in constant commercial demand, and the value of which is not, like cotton, for instance, subject to frequent and great fluctuations. The imperfect system of agriculture practised by the people, and their irregular and semi-civilized habits, must also be kept in view. The Fijians are agriculturists by birth and inclination; but their manner of cultivation is rude, and their disinclination to cultivate products to which they are strangers is a very strongly marked trait in their character. Time and tuition are, therefore, both to be taken into consideration, but not more so, perhaps, than would be necessary in the initiation of an entirely new policy or scheme among a more advanced people.

It has occurred to me, whilst considering the question of revenues to be derived from natural productions, that, in the first instance, it will be expedient to direct attention to those that are indigenous to the country. In the preparation of one article alone of our exports, it is apparent that another material of greater value is thrown away and lost to the Colony for want of the necessary machinery to prepare it for market. The evidences of this fact I shall adduce further on; meantime I submit, for his Excellency's consideration, in connection with his general policy, that it would be well to make advances to certain districts in order that its inhabitants may be supplied with machinery. No great outlay would be necessary; and precedent is not wanting for the Crown supplying natives, desirous of advancing themselves in commerce, with the implements or machinery for doing so.

Until the plan, sketched further on, or a better one—having the same object in view—is perfected, it will be necessary to depend entirely upon existing resources for our native revenue. Fiji is comparatively rich in cocoa-nut groves, and hundreds of tons of copra, or the dried kernel of the nut, are exported annually to the United Kingdom and the Continent, but the whole of the valuable cocoa-nut fibre is lost, because the makers of the copra have no means of preparing the husk, or fibre of the nut, for sale.

The country abounds with plantains, of which the natives distinguish about twenty-five sorts. According to Seemann, the "Soaqa," a wild variety which grows in all the valleys, a few hundred feet above the level of the sea, is the *Musa troglodytarum*, the plant from which, says Sir John Bowring, in his work upon the Philippine Islands, Manilla hemp is obtained. There is also a cultivated variety named Vundi Vula, or white plantain, which, I think, is the *Musa textilis* of botanists. This variety yields a fine, bright, and strong Manilla hemp. Samples sent by me to Sydney were valued at from 35*l.* to 45*l.* per ton, delivered there. The hemp is

obtained from the stem or trunk of the plant. The fibre, obtained from the petioles of the leaves, is so fine that it is said the finest muslins may be made from it.

The preparation of these fibres by hand is both a long and difficult process; and, in order to export them in any quantities, machinery must be imported.

It is very probable that, with a little alteration, the machinery used in New Zealand for cleaning *Phormium tenax* might be adopted here for Manilla hemp. If the thick laminæ, of which the plantain stem is composed, were crushed between smooth or fluted rollers, the hard outer epiderm would be broken up, and the cellulose—of which there is a large quantity—might be got rid of by washing and beating. In the preparation of an article like this the services of women and children might be very largely engaged. (See Note B.)

The indigenous products can, to a large extent, be utilized at once. The fibre also of the yaka, the pine apple, and the aloe might be treated very much in the same way as New Zealand hemp. One variety of the arum is said to yield a very valuable fibre, and I am inclined to think there are many plants of a similar character not as yet generally known to settlers. Water privileges, to use an American term, are numerous in every district. An overshot water-wheel, made of durable hard wood, fitted with iron-work ready for erection, can be laid down in Levuka at a cost of from 70*l.* to 100*l.*, according to size. "Devils" for preparing cocoa-nut fibre can be procured at about 50*l.* each, or if contracted for in any number perhaps for less. Machines for preparing Manilla fibre would cost about 25*l.* each in Auckland. If erected in suitable places I believe these machines would rapidly repay the expenditure incurred for their purchase, as the coir or cocoa-nut fibre now thrown away would then be all saved. Natives could soon learn to work the machinery above described when driven by a water-wheel, which is a simple and steady power. At Rambi, Lauthala, and Wakaya the imported labourers have been taught to manage the machinery, running at a rapid rate, and driven by steam-power.

The chief indigenous productions of Fiji and their values are—

		Approximate Value in Fiji.		
		£	*s.*	*d.*
Copra	per ton	8	0	0
Oil	,,	20	0	0
Coir	,,	18	0	0
Manilla	,,	25	0	0
Yaka	,,	20	0	0
Tobacco	,,	84	0	0
Fungus	per lb.	0	0	4
Beche de mer	per ton	60	0	0
Tortoiseshell	per lb.	0	10	0

I may add that annatto (*bixa orellana*) grows wild, though it has not, strange to say, been noticed by Seemann or any other writer upon Fiji. The value of annatto is from 70*l.* to 80*l.* per ton, and I find from Commercial Reports that England alone imports more than 12,000*l.* worth annually. Its preparation is simple. Ipecacuanha, which like annatto, is found wild in all the low lands, was with the senna plant introduced many years ago by the French missionaries, and though never as yet turned to any account might be cultivated with advantage.

There are many other productions that might be utilized, such as candle-nuts (*Aleurites triloba*), the oil of which equals rape seed oil in value (30*l.* to 32*l.* per ton), arrowroot, turmeric, ginger, &c. The native rattan might also find a foreign market, and a home industry might be created by the manufacture of baskets, chairs, and, ere long, mat-bags for sugar. These bags, which might be made upon the pattern of the vacoa bags of Mauritius or the smaller sized bags of Java, could be made from the "*Pandanus caricosus*" or Voivoi of the natives. The native women of Fiji are very clever in the making or plaiting of bags, and I see no reason why sugar bags should not be exported to Queensland as vacoa bags are from Madagascar and the Seychelles to Mauritius.

Upon the foregoing articles, and any others that I may have omitted to mention, and cotton, the native revenue would have to depend *for the next four or five years*, by which time coffee, cocoa, and other plantations would commence yielding. I have not mentioned sugar, but I am of opinion that under certain circumstances it might be profitably grown by natives, and form an early source of revenue. The system, however, which I would recommend to be adopted for the cultivation of sugar requires combination with settlers, and also trenches upon important questions, such as the introduction of European capital and population. I will,

therefore, state my views on this matter in the concluding part of this paper, confining myself in the meantime to the scheme, as it may be commenced by the native race without any immediate aid beyond the Government. (See note C.)

I would recommend that plantations be commenced at such places in the country as offer the greatest general advantages,—one of the greatest being the firm rule of the native Chief or Roko of the district. Bau, Rewa, Kadavu, Bua, Central Viti, and Lau are fit places to commence at; Ra, Ba, Yasawa, and Mathuata are disorganized districts, and, Mathuata excepted, which produces cocoa-nuts, are poor in everything but bêche de mer. Thakaundrovi, though a large and comparatively rich district, requires organizing. Hitherto its people have been impoverished by the frequent exactions of its Chief, and periodically spoiled by the Algerines of the Pacific—that is to say, by the Tongans—whose power and influence the hereditary Chief has never quite shaken off. The provinces named should be defined by exact boundaries as soon as possible, but at present the existing and somewhat arbitrary divisions must be accepted. In future, the districts or subdivisions of the provinces should be formed into wards or parishes, and as the tribal organization of the people is improved upon, the town and common lands of each ward should be surveyed and marked out. I would further advise the aggregation of many petty towns, some of which do not contain half-a-dozen houses, and are the refuge of the discontented and troublesome, into one larger one. The people would thus be more under the surveillance of the authorities, more able to co-operate in the work of their plantations, and more amenable to the influences of advancing civilization. The principal Chiefs are all in favour of such a step being taken.

Every parish or ward should have a farm or plantation in common, whereat the people should raise such crops as may be decided upon to cultivate. The locality and crop should be decided upon by a Government officer duly appointed for that purpose, acting in conjunction with the Roko of the Province. They should select the locality by personal inspection, and with due regard to soil, climate, and facility of communication. Each town within the ward should be assessed in labour at such times, and in rotation, or such other manner as may be regulated by the Governor. The combined action of the people of one or more towns at one plantation would exactly accord with the customs and habits of the people, as shown in Mr. Wilkinson's paper upon the "lala" or "service tenure." The Roko should, I think, have his authority confirmed by law; he and the Bulis and native Magistrates should be made responsible for the working of the people, and be empowered to punish summarily any wilful neglect or disobedience of orders. In addition to these officers there are the petty Chiefs or head men of towns, upon whom, and the native village police, certain duties in regard to the system should be imposed.

The Roko should consult and confer with the Resident European Magistrate of his province upon matters affecting the conduct of the district plantations, and the latter should report any causes which lead to the partial or total neglect of the instructions which from time to time may be issued by the Governor in respect to such plantations or to the system generally.

Before quitting the subject of the supervisory officers I must add, that while fully believing that the establishment of district, plantations among the Fijians will be highly beneficial to them, I feel that the success of the system depends very much upon the strength and efficiency of the machinery by which it is to be at first set and kept in motion. The responsible and directing officers of each province are, of course, the Roko and the European Magistrate, but the Roko as yet has not the requisite knowledge to carry out unassisted the necessary work of the plantations, and the Resident Magistrate is not likely to have the time. Under these circumstances I recommend that officers acquainted with the language, and possessed of some agricultural experience, be appointed to instruct and assist the people. Their duty would require them to be constantly moving about the provinces, encouraging and instructing the natives, and reporting to the Resident Magistrate. The principal officer might with advantage have associated with him an intelligent native Chief.

As soon as the district farm lands have been selected, clearing and planting should at once commence. Coffee, cacao, cloves, tobacco, vanilla, and other species might be cultivated without delay. Cocoa-nuts might be planted to a large extent, and with great future advantage; if attended to they will bear in four-and-a-half or five years, and at seven or ten years of age would become a source of large revenue.

In Fiji the annual value to the trader of a nut tree has been estimated at 4*s.* per annum—but this is a very low value—for the kernel only of the nut has been taken into account; but, in fact, every part of the tree will contribute something to commerce. With the exception of the districts of Tai Levu, Ra, and Ba, the cocoa-nut tree thrives well throughout Fiji, and many still vacant places upon the shores of Vanua Levu, the Central Islands, and Kadavu, might be lined with this valuable and comparatively everlasting tree. Coffee commences bearing in its third or fourth year, and though it blossoms twice, the berry, as at Jamaica, ripens only once in the year, that is to say, in February, just after the culmination of our short summer, a season corresponding with the month of August in the warmer part of Jamaica.

Cacao, according to some authorities, bears in the seventh or eighth year after planting. Consul Perry (Brazil) says, "It produces fruit three years after planting, and with moderate care, will give *two* yearly crops for fifty or sixty years." I gather from this statement that the cacao plantations referred to must be situated in a lower latitude than that in which Fiji is placed, and influenced by a more equable double season. The remarks I have made as to the ripening of coffee at the season of our short summer will doubtless apply also to cacao. (See note D.)

Tobacco may be cut and housed in four months from the time of planting. It requires in Fiji, as it does elsewhere, new soil, and it is an exhausting crop. Nadroga is a province in which tobacco might be grown, and manufactured upon the spot, with great advantage. The fragrance and strength of the tobacco leaf is very much deteriorated by exportation. Cigars made upon, or near to, the plantations upon which the leaf is grown, are much superior to any made in the neighbouring Colonies, or Europe, from imported leaf; tobacco cannot stand much handling, packing, and re-packing, and, least of all, the "re-sweating" that it has to undergo at the hands of manufacturers. There is a good field open at Nadroga for enterprise in this direction, and the manufacture of cigars would find employment for numbers of women and children.

As the provincial plantations and their crops are, at the present moment, all *in futuro*, it seems premature for me to attempt anything beyond a sketch of the details of the proposed system. The preparation of the district plantation can begin at once; but, for the purposes of an immediate revenue, it will be necessary to foster and make use of every one of the existing or indigenous resources of the Colony.

The plan proposed, as I understand it, is this: that the native population may contribute their taxes in the form of produce instead of money. That the produce contributed upon account of the assessed tax upon the district shall be received and paid for by the Government at a fixed rate, and that it shall be sold on the spot to contractors.

Among the European traders and settlers generally, this plan of raising a revenue will be held in great disfavour, and I anticipate much early trouble and annoyance from the fact. Its first effect will be to touch the trader in the pocket, and hence its working and the object of the Government will be misrepresented, both within and without the Colony. As a rule, the trader pays a native from one-half to two-thirds of the sum he would pay to an European for an article of the same value, and, moreover, frequently pays him in worthless barter. If a native buys cloth or calico from the trader, he pays at least 100 per cent. more than an European would have to pay.

By encouraging the natives to become large producers (and the Government only can do this), the natives ere long will learn to acquire and value money properly, and they will be much larger purchasers from fair dealing traders than they are now. In the absence of money throughout the Group, it may be as well to lay down a standard in "kind."

The following quantities of indigenous produce represent a value of 20*s.*, estimating them at the ordinary rates current at Levuka:—

Copra	lbs.	280
Coir	"	118
Manilla	"	83
Yaka	"	112
Tobacco	"	84
Fungus	"	60
Bêche de mer	"	30
Tortoiseshell	"	2
Cocoa-nut oil	galls.	12½

If trained to some order and system, a native can very easily earn his taxes. To show this, I will select two of the chief indigenous products, viz., cocoanut and bêche de mer.

Copra—the dried kernel of the nut—is worth, upon an average, 8*l.* per ton of 2,240 lbs. It requires 6,000 nuts to make this quantity, therefore 20*s.* worth of copra requires for its production only 625 nuts. It is calculated that a cocoanut tree yields at a minimum 100 nuts per annum, so that six trees, which, planted at 20 feet apart, occupy only one-twelfth of an acre, produce, within a small fraction, one man's taxes. Of course some allowance must be made for loss and wastage. Damp weather and insects unite in destroying copra; but, under any circumstances, it will be seen that no great difficulty need present itself to any moderately industrious native or community of natives.

In addition, however, to the kernel, which, as just described, may be converted into copra, there is the valuable fibre or coir, every bit of which is at present thrown away by the natives. To this fact and the manner in which I propose to stay further loss, I will refer towards the close of this Memorandum. In Ceylon and Cochin China even the midrib of the leaflets are turned to account by making them into brooms, and the village women and children of Fiji might occasionally be profitably employed in making them, as they would find a ready market in the Colonies. With regard to bêche de mer, I have been frequently assured by intelligent natives that upon the north coast of Viti and Vanua Levu, and at some places in the Windward Group, particularly Fulanga, any active Fijian can, in two nights, catch sufficient "fish" to fill, when dried, a three-bushel bag. The value of such a bag full would be from 25*s.* to 40*s.*, according to the variety (of which there are some seven or eight), and the perfection with which it is cured. At the present moment, this trade is almost entirely in the hands of Chinamen, who employ quite a fleet of small boats in the business. A large and regular revenue might be derived by the judicious management of these fisheries, which, in my opinion, should become a "droit" of the Crown. Bêche de mer, like turtles, are among the Fijians "royal fish." They are only caught by command of the Supreme Chief, and, therefore, assuming the right of the Crown (to bêche de mer at all events) no wrong would be committed or grievance raised. The habits of this fish, or properly speaking "holothuria," should be observed, and their breeding time be made a close season, or the practice of indiscriminate fishing all the year round will soon produce a great diminution in the annual supply.

More than thirty years ago 16,000*l.* worth of bêche de mer was taken away by one trader at the rate of 3,000*l.* worth per annum, and all from the north coasts of Vanua and Viti Levu. Until lately the reefs have not been fished excepting in an irregular and indifferent way. The native wars, which raged between the tribes of the north coasts of the above-named islands for the ten or fifteen years preceding 1863-64, and from which they have never recovered, made them poor and indolent. Their family power and relationship was weakened, and in some instances destroyed, and no one Chief has until recently been established as a ruler. Although well off for suitable timber, dwelling upon the seaboard, and constantly requiring them, they have hardly a canoe in which they can go fishing. One of the first things to which the Rokos of the Provinces should be directed is the building of canoes.

Prior to the late epidemic (measles) the native population of the Colony—exclusive of the "Tholo" or hill tribes—was estimated to be 114,636. (See note E.) One-fourth of this number were persons who—in their several provinces—might have contributed to the assessment of their district. Supposing that one-fifth of this number were lost in the epidemic, there would now remain about 23,000 taxable people. If the several districts are assessed in the quantities of produce laid down in page 5, and one-half, or 10-20th of the value, is paid to the revenue as assessed taxes, it would leave 7-20th to be paid to the producers, and 3-20th to go towards paying for the machinery provided in each district; that is to say, the receiving rate on the quantities of produce there named would be 7*s.* By this calculation, the native revenue should be about 11,000*l.*, not perhaps in the first year, but as soon as the system begins to work. Up to the present time, and by seeking to raise the tax in money, the sum of 4,000*l.* per annum has barely been reached.

I quite agree with the opinion expressed by Mr. Chalmers, that a Fijian can pay a tax of 20*s.* per annum without being in any way oppressed; I go even further, and say that they will be benefited by the industry and activity which is necessary

to procure this sum, either in cash or kind. There are, however, some calls upon the natives, made without intermission, and frequently upon the most absurd grounds, from which, I think, they might in part be relieved.

Another matter requiring remedy is the arbitrary exactions of the Chiefs. This evil will be corrected by defining—as the Rajahkaria has been in Ceylon—the service rights, or "Lala," of the late ruling Chiefs. Lala should be confined as far as possible to housebuilding and planting. The donation or payment of sinnet, mats, pots, salt, and native cloth, should not be stopped, but only regulated. Native salt and cloth are giving way to English manufactures, and brittle clay pots are yielding to Birmingham wares. In a short time, "Lala" in this form will fall into disuse, and be confined to the two first-named services; but no Chief should be allowed hereafter to seize upon the private property of the commonalty, either openly or under the cloak of "begging."

As in view of the long time that must elapse before coffee, cacao, pepper, and other exotics can yield any return, even if planted within the next six months, I will now proceed to show his Excellency what a large amount of raw material is annually lost to the country.

The loss is in cocoanut fibre.

I have taken great care to assure myself of the relative yield of copra and fibre from a given quantity of nuts. My authorities are the Messrs. Hennings, J. C. Smith and Co., Mr. Hill, of Rambi, and Mr. Logan, of Lauthala. I have also visited a great number of plantations, and made inquiries of those who have had experience in the matter.

Six thousand nuts of average size will produce one ton of copra, and a trifle more than one ton of fibre or coir, that is to say, equal weights of the two articles. Copra in Levuka is worth 8*l.* and coir 16*l.* per ton. Therefore, when the husk of the nut is not worked up by the maker of copra, he loses (less the difference between the cost of drying nuts and ginning fibre) twice as much as he makes.

Reference to past exports will give an idea of our annual loss by the waste of this valuable article, for which there is a constant and increasing demand.

EXPORTS.

From the 1st October, 1872, to the 30th September, 1873.

	Tons.	Value.	Loss.
		£	£
Copra	258	2,064	..
Coir	51	816	..
Difference	207	..	3,312
Same months, 1873 to 1874.			
Copra	619	4,952	..
Coir	93	1,488	..
Difference	526	..	8,416
From September 30 to December 31, 1874.			
Copra	678	5,424	..
Coir	55	880	..
Difference	623	..	9,968
Total loss	..	..	21,696

The natives only commenced to abandon the old practice of making oil in favour of copra in the year 1871. At the outset they made but little, being both inexperienced and opposed, like all people of their class, to attempt any new form of industry. It will be seen by the foregoing returns that the manufacture of copra is increasing, and with it the waste of fibre.

The coir hitherto exported has all been made by European settlers engaged in the copra trade, therefore the loss upon cocoanuts estimated for the above period to equal 21,696*l.* has fallen upon the natives alone.

There will, however, be some waste under any circumstances, and the erection

of machinery as proposed will necessitate the expenditure of money, but when these and incidental matters are taken into consideration, there will still remain a very large margin of clear gain and profit to the Colony.

There is no difficulty in transporting nuts; they may be towed for miles along the sea coast to a mill. The mill itself could be purchased from Government by the people of the district in which it was erected, and become their own property.

I have, in the course of this Memorandum, dwelt very strongly upon the indigenous resources of the Colony, and in doing so my object has been to endeavour to stop the present waste of a valuable and plentiful article, and to suggest an immediate source of revenue from materials at hand, while other schemes for our commercial and financial advancement are being planned and perfected.

(Signed) JOHN B. THURSTON.

NOTE A.—The assessment of districts would accord more with the customs of the Fijians than the imposition of a tax *per capitum*. The reason of this may be gathered from Mr. Wilkinson's paper upon "Lala;" but it may be as well to state here that the usages and customs—indeed the whole ground work of Fijian society is based upon what is only a first or second advance from the communal system. The individual, as regards rights and obligations, is not known to Fijian law. Their system of kinship is Agnatic. They do and suffer as communities. Their "qualis" are families—originally of one brotherhood—and they are under the authority of one patriarchal head or Chief; hence they act well in communities, but as individuals they fail, for as a rule they have no individuality.

NOTE B (1).—Manilla and other fibres have been made from various varieties of the plantain and banana. The manilla is got from "Musa textilis." There are other varieties grown here, almost equally rich in fibre with textilis, as the dacca, maculaka, and several others, which, by comparison with the quantity and quality of fibre made in Manilla, the Philippine Islands, &c., are equally good with the best of them. On an average a full-grown plant is found to produce 5 lbs. of clean fibre, and in their own country the best exertions of experienced workmen (Indian or Chinese) produce about 12 lbs. of fibre per day.

NOTE B (2).—A machine for cleaning and preparing banana and other Fijian fibre is thus described in the "New Zealand Herald:"—

"These fibres are usually prepared by hand labour, to imitate which has been a leading idea with the inventors. The pineapple leaf, or the pulp containing the fibres from the banana stem, being first cut into strips, passes into and through two small but powerful fluted rollers, in which it is sufficiently crushed and broken up to admit of its being operated upon by scraping cylinders, between which it is then carried.

"These two cylinders or drums are connected together by spin-wheels, revolve in the same direction, and are adjusted to scrape alternately both sides of the leaf or pulp in the following manner:—

"At equal distances round both cylinders are securely and alternately fixed a number of steel scraping-knives and sustaining plates, or bed for the knife to scrape upon. All of these knives and plates are supported by, and work upon, powerful steel springs of a peculiar and novel application, yet exceedingly simple.

"Now, as they revolve together, the scraping-knife upon (say) No. 1 cylinder, is brought into direct and firm contact with the sustaining plate on (say) No. 2 cylinder, at about half an inch before they reach the "periphery" line, or circumference of the circle, and then, by the yielding of the double springs, without percussion. By their pressure likewise they remain in such contact until, as these cylinders continue to revolve, they have reached the similar space of half an inch on the other side of this "periphery" line, and then separate.

"Thus the leaf or pulp being at the time held firmly between the fluted rollers, is scraped on one side, between this knife and sustainer, for the space of about 1 inch. The action is then instantaneously reversed, the knife now upon (say) No. 2 cylinder follows upon the sustainer of (say) No. 1 cylinder, scraping over the same space of about 1 inch, and finishing completely the other side of the leaf or pulp, and this operation thus alternately continues, as the feeding rollers supply the exact quantity the cylinders are calculated to clean.

"Adjusting screws, acting directly upon the springs, cause the contact between the knives and sustainers to be made either with extreme lightness, or as powerfully as required, according to the soft or hard nature of the fibre to be scraped. The machine, therefore, it will be readily understood, is perfectly adapted for all the various kinds of vegetable fibre. The cylinders revolve slowly, making only 200 revolutions per minute, and require but 1½-horse driving power.

"As the banana yields more abundantly from the new shoot, the stems are cut down and left to rot upon the ground as soon as the fruit has ripened, no native difficulty as to supplying them will therefore occur. Plantations, however, could be made, if necessary, in the vicinity of the mill—competent authorities computing the drop at two tons of clean fibre per acre.

"The fluted rollers feed into the machine 1,800 inches, or 150 feet per minute, cleaning therefore a large bulk per diem. The only after manipulation required is thorough washing, and then drying as rapidly as possible. From two to three hours completes the operation, without waste or injury to the fibre.

"To clean soft pulpy matter similar to the aloes, or the stem of the banana, which contains the

fibre enclosed in it, mere contact of the scrapers and sustainers are necessary, with barely any deflection of the spring action. The pineapple leaf being of a much harder nature, requires greater pressure, but in this respect no other species can compare with the *Phormium Tenax*, or New Zealand flax, the fibre of which is by far the most difficult to extract from its gummy and resinous matters. Yet this machine, without any undue spring pressure, scrapes through this solid leaf perfectly, producing the fibre from it of double the value to that obtained under the beating or stripping process hitherto employed.

"The banana and plantain are the most prolific, and will therefore probably be the most lucrative of the Fiji fibres to manipulate.

"Machinery and cheap labour combined will produce Manilla hemp from them in these Islands at a cost not exceeding 15*l.* per ton, and if worked upon a large scale considerably less. The foreign market value of it is from 40*l.* to 50*l.* per ton."

Note C.—Whether the native population can or cannot cultivate sugar cane upon their district plantations depends upon the possibility of selling it when grown. At present it is impossible, for there are neither mills nor the prospect of mills, excepting upon a few plantations where settlers are growing their own cane. Many people of great experience are of opinion that the business of sugar-growing and sugar-making should not be combined; that the attempt, as a rule, fails to produce the estimated result; but that when growers can sell their cane at a mill in the neighbourhood they generally do well. I am inclined to think that there is a great deal of truth in this statement.

Sugar cane is not strictly indigenous to Fiji, but it must have been imported by the old Malayan and Papuan voyagers centuries ago. Its generic name is Dovu (Tobu or Tovu—Malay), and it is now found all over the group. The natives like to cultivate it; they know the soil and localities suited for its growth, and there is plenty of excellent cane to be had for cuttings. It is by no means unlikely that capitalists would put up sugar mills in several places, and be glad of the opportunity to do so if they could be assured of a certain supply of cane, either from the natives or the settlers, or from both. Some two years ago enquiries were made by a leading Sydney firm upon a project of this kind, and it is quite possible that an arrangement of the sort might yet find favour. Such a plan, if carried out would, I think, do much towards advancing the Colony, the future of which seems, at the present moment, to be depending very much upon the success of sugar-growing. Private enterprise in Fiji will at first be slow, and I think some encouragement and inducement might be held out by the Government to capitalists desirous of investing their money in the Colony. If cane can be grown in large quantities there will be no difficulty in finding people to erect the necessary plant for crushing it.

Note D.—Cacao, from which the chocolate of commerce is made, is obtained in the form of seed pods from a very handsome tree. In its nature it is even more tropical than coffee. The following notes on the subject of cultivation and preparation of the cacao or chocolate plant are from the Director of the Royal Botanic Garden, Pérádemaya, Ceylon.

"The cacao being an essentially tropical plant, its cultivation would doubtless be most profitable at a low elevation, and should scarcely be attempted above 2,000 feet. The soil should be friable to some depth, and well drained; good forest soil would, of course, be best, but that of native gardens would generally be very suitable. Shade is necessary for the cacao plants when young, but this need be but slight when they are more matured, as light and free ventilation are essential for the production of good and abundant crops.

"The seeds of cacao must be sown as soon as possible after they are gathered, as they soon spoil for germinating upon becoming dry. As germination soon commences, and proceeds very rapidly, and as the young plants are very impatient of being transplanted, unless with the adoption of such precautions as to prevent their roots being in any way injured, arrangements must be made either for growing the seeds in a nursery, allowing a space of at least a foot between each seedling, so that they may subsequently be taken up with the earth about their roots; or for sowing the roots singly in bamboo or other pots; or for putting two or three seeds in each place it is intended a tree shall occupy in the plantation, subsequently allowing only the strongest seedling of these two or three to remain.

"Cacao trees in the plantation should stand at a distance apart of 10 or 15 feet, according to the richness of the soil, 12 feet being a very good average distance. The ground under the trees must be kept free from weeds, and well littered with decaying leaves and other vegetable matter. For convenience in gathering the fruit, the tree should not be higher than 14 to 18 feet. As the flowers, which are produced in clusters upon the trunk and principal branches, are small and very delicate, great care should be taken that they are not rubbed off or injured.

"In the fourth year a good crop may be expected on good soil. The fruit must be quite ripe before it is gathered. When ripe it has a pale yellowish colour. After being picked it is allowed to lie in heaps for about twenty-four hours. Then the pods are cut open, and the pulpy mass of seeds taken out, and put into baskets, to be carried to a sloping paved barbecue, or into large open wicker-work baskets to drain. As soon as the drainage of the acid pulp has ceased, the mass is emptied into boxes in which "terrage," or the process of sweating, is to continue for 36 or 48 hours, and by no means longer than 60 hours, or the quality of the cacao would be impaired. After removal from the sweating boxes the seeds must be freed from any extraneous adhering matter, and spread out loosely to dry in the sun, being turned over very frequently. This process of drying occupies about three weeks, and when complete the seeds should be of a fine dark red colour. The foregoing is the cacao seed of commerce. The produce of a tree when prepared ranges from 5 to 8 lbs. The crop has the advantage of being easily cultivated and prepared for export by a few hands."

Note E.—The following estimate of the native population is taken from Returns made by Provincial Officers at the end of 1874, prior to the outbreak of the measles:—

	Estimated Population, 1874.	Estimated Population, September 1, 1875.
Ba and Yasawa	19,500	15,600
Bua	9,000	7,200
Lomai Viti	7,514	6,011
Thakaundrovi	12,000	9,600
Kandavu	10,000	8,000
Lau	3,442	2,754
Mathuata	5,000	4,000
Nandronga	8,000	6,000
Namosi	1,372	1,098
Rewa	22,500	18,000
Tai Levu and Naitasiri	16,308	13,047
Central Viti Levu (Tholo)	..	10,000
	114,636	101,710

These Returns are apparently below the mark, for the Wesleyan Mission Report for 1875 shows, prior to the measles, no fewer than 122,526 attendants upon public worship, as follows :—

Mission Circuits.	Attendants at Worship.
Lakemba	5,190
Lomaloma	3,041
Viva, Tai Levu	26,212
Bua	12,753
Bau, Tai Levu	13,439
Navuloa and Theo. Institution	4,003
Cakaudrove	13,633
Ovalau	7,759
Rewa	26,296
Kadavu	10,200
Total	122,526

Inclosure 2 in No. 30.

Notice.

THE following resolutions, adopted by the Legislative Council, on the 31st December, 1875, in regard to native taxes and stamp duties, are published for general information :—

Moved by his Excellency the Governor, and seconded by the Hon. Gustav Hennings—

1. That the Legislative Council shall annually, by resolution, assess the amount of native taxes to be paid by each province or district.

2. That such taxes shall be paid from the proceeds of the sale of native produce, to be raised in such time and manner as may hereafter be prescribed by law.

3. That the assessment for 1876 shall be as follows :—

	£		£
Lau	1,500	Rewa	4,000
Cakaudrovi	2,000	Kadavu	2,000
Macuata	2,000	Nadroga	1,500
Bua	1,500	Ba and Yasawas	1,000
Lomai Viti	1,500	Ra	750
Tai Levu	3,000	Namosi	500
Naitasiri	750		

4. That the Governor in Council shall be authorized to remit any portion of the assessment for the ensuing year.

Moved by the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, and seconded by the Hon. the Auditor-General—

That Part I of the Act 29 Vict., No. 6, of New South Wales, intituled the "Stamp Duties Act, 1865," together with the schedule relating to such Part I, also the Act 36 Vict., No. 15, of New South Wales, authorizing the use of postage stamps for the purposes of the Stamp Act, be temporarily adopted as the law of this Colony.

By his Excellency's Command,
(Signed) ARTHUR ELIBANK HAVELOCK,
Colonial Secretary.

Inclosure 3 in No 30.

FIJI.—No. IV., 1876.

An Ordinance (enacted by the Governor of the Colony of Fiji, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof), to Regulate the Assessment and Collection of Native Taxes.

WHEREAS by a notification contained in the Fiji "Government Gazette," No. 2, of Tuesday, October 13th, 1874, it was directed that every male Fijian, between the ages of sixteen and sixty, excepting those specially exempted, should be taxed or assessed in personal service at the rate of twenty days in each year.

And whereas such notification was continued in force by an Ordinance passed in Council on the 1st day of September last past, entitled "An Ordinance to continue temporarily certain Laws, Ordinances, Proclamations, and Regulations adopted, enacted, or made prior to the Proclamation of the Royal Charter under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, erecting the Fiji Islands into a separate British Colony."

Preamble.

And whereas at a Council of Native Chiefs, holden at Draiba, in the month of September last, it was recommended to his Excellency the Governor that the substitution of a tax in kind for that in labour would be expedient, as being more in accordance with native customs, as well as productive of a larger amount of revenue.

And whereas the Legislative Council did, by resolution, on the 31st day of December last past, revoke and repeal the aforesaid notification of the 13th of October, 1874.

And whereas it is expedient to make other provisions in lieu thereof.

And whereas the Legislative Council did, on the 31st day of December last past, determine that the amount of native taxes to be paid by each province or district should be assessed annually by resolution by the Legislative Council, and further that such taxes shall be paid out of the proceeds of the sale of native produce to be raised at such time and in such manner as might subsequently be prescribed by law.

Be it therefore enacted, by his Excellency the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council, as follows:—

Short Title.

I. This Ordinance may be cited for all purposes as the Native Taxes Ordinance of 1876.

Tax to be assessed annually.

II. The Legislative Council shall annually, and before the close of the month of November in each year, by resolution, assess the amount of tax to be paid by each province of the Colony during the ensuing year.

Local Boards of assessment.

III. There shall be in each province a Board of Assessment, consisting of some fit and proper person to be appointed by the Governor, who shall be styled the Provincial Assessor, the Roko Tui of the province, the Stipendiary Magistrate of the district, and two persons, who shall be styled Assistant Assessors, elected by the native local Assessors hereinafter mentioned.

Provincial assessor may act in more than one province.

IV. It shall be lawful for the Governor, if he think fit, to appoint the same person to be Provincial Assessor in more than one province.

Assistant assessors.

V. The Assistant Assessors shall be under the direction and control of the Provincial Assessor, and shall obey all lawful commands given by him.

Duty of local boards.

VI. Such Board shall assess the amount and description of produce, the sale of which, at prices to be fixed by public tender, will realise the sum at which the province has been assessed by the Legislative Council.

Manner of raising or collecting taxes so assessed.

VII. Such produce shall be raised or collected in such manner and at such places in the respective provinces as the said Board, with the approval of the Governor, may from time to time appoint and direct, due regard being had to the local circumstances of such provinces.

Objections how considered.

VIII. Every objection made to such assessment or directions, whether made by any member of a Provincial Board of Assessment, or the inhabitants of any province, district, or ward village assessed, shall be considered and determined by the Governor in Council so soon as may be after being informed thereof.

Governor may subdivide the province.

IX. It shall be lawful for the Governor, for the purposes of this Ordinance, by proclamation under his hand, to divide the different provinces of the Colony into districts and wards, and such divisions, by any subsequent Proclamation under his hand to amend or alter.

Natives may elect local assessors.

X. There shall be in every such district one or more local assessors, as the Governor may direct, to be elected by the native population of such district.

Regulations, manner of making.

XI. The Governor in Council may, from time to time, make regulations for the carrying out of this Ordinance, which regulations, when published in the "Royal Gazette," shall have the same force and effect as if they had formed part of this Ordinance, and may be enforced by penalties of fine and imprisonment, to be recovered in a summary manner before any Stipendiary Magistrate: Provided that no such fine shall exceed 2*l.*, and no such imprisonment shall exceed twenty-one days.

Proviso.

Regulations to be laid before the Council.

XII. All such Regulations shall be laid before the Legislative Council at its next subsequent meeting to their adoption.

Commutation of fine or imprisonment.

XIII. When any fine or imprisonment is imposed, or made under the Regulations hereinbefore mentioned, it may, if the Governor shall so order, be commuted for labour at the rate of one day's labour for every 1*s.* of fine, or two day's labour for every day of imprisonment.

Tax may be remitted.

XIV. It shall be lawful for the Governor to remit the whole or any part of the assessment made in any year.

Assessed tax for 1876.

XV. The assessment for the present year 1876 shall be that contained in the Resolution of the Legislative Council of the 31st day of December last past, and set forth in the Schedule hereunto annexed.

Passed in Council this 10th day of February, in the year of our Lord 1876.

SCHEDULE.

	£		£
Lau	1,500	Rewa	4,000
Cakaudrovi	2,000	Kadavu	2,000
Macuata	2,000	Nadroga	1,500
Bua	1,500	Ba and Yasawas	1,000
Lomai Viti	1,500	Ra	750
Tai Levu	3,000	Namosi	500
Natisiri	750		

Inclosure 4 in No. 30.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.—On Thursday, the 27th ultimo, an important subject was brought before the Legislative Council, being the first reading of a Bill to Regulate the Assessment and Collection of Native Taxes.

Upon the order of the day being read, the Hon. the Auditor-General said :—

Sir,—In moving the first reading of a Bill to regulate the assessment and collection of native taxes, I did not at first propose to address myself to the subject at any length, but, upon reflection, and in view of the somewhat unusual nature of the Bill, I think the Board will desire me to speak to the motion, and that it will expect from me fuller indications of the reason for its introduction and of its general scope and character than are usually entered into upon a motion for a first reading. I confess, too, that I am disposed to throw myself upon the indulgence of the Board and enter into subjects which are in my opinion, incident to the subject matter of the measure I am now submitting, inasmuch as I have the pleasure of observing a larger number of members present to-day than I may meet upon the second reading of the Bill, if it is so fortunate as to arrive at that stage. And honourable gentlemen who compose the unofficial portion of the Board are, collectively, very competent, from their long residence in the Colony, their intimate acquaintance with the native race, and their knowledge of, and large interest in, its commercial prospects, to express opinions upon the soundness or otherwise of the proposed measure. I trust, therefore, that they will not hesitate to set me right if, during the course of my remarks, I fall into any errors.

It would appear, Sir, by a late resolution of this Board upon the 31st December, that, notwithstanding the representations made by Her Majesty's Commissioners touching the evils that arose out of the system of taxing the Fijians in money, that the exigencies of the Colony are such as to require the native population to contribute towards the public revenue. The subject has been under the consideration of honourable members for some time, and the question has been what form of contribution (having due regard to the habits and intelligence of that population) is best,

a contribution in money, or a contribution in kind. I am well aware that the system of receiving or making payment of rents or taxes in kind is a system that has long been abandoned in all, or nearly all, parts of Her Majesty's possessions. I am equally well aware that an attempt to argue the advantages of a return to such a system is an attempt calculated to call forth the censure and opposition of a very large portion of any British community. Still, and fully sensible as I am of these facts, the payment in Fiji of native taxes in kind or produce, is at present the system which I believe is best suited to the existing character and condition of the native race, and is the system which it is the object of this Ordinance to legalize.

Before entering into any further remarks upon the Bill or its intent, I ask permission of the Board to express my opinion as to the point of view from which a measure of this nature should be regarded, and, in doing so, I beg leave to say, speaking of measures of native policy generally, that I fail to see how the practices or principles of highly civilized states of society can be generally applied to all conditions of mankind throughout the world, I cannot, for instance, see how principles that are the results and not the causes of a high state of civilization can possibly be applied to a state of semi-barbarism, and this is the mistake that has always been made here. No such application can, in fact, be either applicable or expedient to a lower state of society, seeing that all, or nearly all, of the conditions incident to the higher are entirely wanting. I think it will be admitted that the attempt to fit round pegs into square holes is generally attended with much vexation and waste of time; and it appears to me that the too rigid applications of the canons of European political economy to a race of people but barely emerging from barbarism, who (I speak of the mass of the people) have no settled or regular industry, who know not the value of money, and, beyond one or two coins, not even its designation, and who are still guided by the comparatively crude ideas which characterise all forms of society in its rude and early stage, is very much like attempting to fit round pegs into square holes. You may put the pegs there I grant, but they will not fit. Before they can be applicable or useful, time must be allowed to work its changes, and one or two generations must be allowed to pass before the angular features of semi-barbarism can be worn away. In regard to the measure I am now introducing, and in many others which may be brought before the Board hereafter, affecting the native race of this country, I admit that we are experimentalising. But all Government measures are more or less experimental, and particularly are they so in a young Colony containing inhabitants of different races, like the one in which and for which it is our duty to legislate. I am, therefore, of opinion that this Board should not in these matters give too much consideration as to whether what we propose to do in a new field like this, and for an as yet uncivilized people like the Fijians, will or will not stand the exact test of our European politico-economical square and plumb-line. But I would submit, Sir, that, recognizing the duties and difficulties before us, we should content ourselves with using the best means at our disposal for the attainment of the objects we have in view, without regard to what I may term preconceived ideas, or foregone conclusions upon subjects which call for careful study and much personal observation. Holding these opinions, I feel it my duty to state, as the result of many years' personal experience of the Fijian character, and long and careful study of the subject, that at present, and for some years to come, the easiest, fairest, and most certain means of raising a revenue from the native population, is by the imposition of a tax payable in produce or kind, instead of a tax payable in money. In a Memorandum which I had the honour of submitting some months ago to his Excellency, some of the reasons upon which this opinion is founded are laid down, to which, with the permission of the Board, I will refer:—

"The proposed plan of establishing plantations for the purpose of enabling the natives to provide the means of paying their taxes, requires perhaps a few words in explanation before entering into a sketch of the plan itself.

"In some countries taxes and rent are paid in kind instead of money. In civilized or semi-civilized countries—or those like India and China where the science of political economy is almost unknown—this system largely prevails. The payment of taxes in produce or kind is doubtless a bad one, for experience teaches that public revenue derived from such a source usually suffers so much from the mismanagement and peculation of the collectors, that very little of what is contributed by the people ever finds its way into the Treasury.

"For these and many other reasons, public revenue is better derived in money. It may, however, occur that countries exist, the people of which are rude and

uncivilized, where they tenaciously adhere to the antiquated customs of their race; and where, as they have no money, they must either pay in produce or not at all. Fiji is one of such places. Its people have no money among themselves, and the European trading and planting population (under 900 persons) is too small to provide the bulk of them with work or any other means of gaining money. There can be no doubt also that, if it were possible to collect revenue in money, the same objection would be taken as is taken above to the levying of taxes in kind. In a young Colony like Fiji, with a large native population, the collection of revenue must, in a great measure, be entrusted to native Chiefs. There are two temptations which many Fijian Chiefs find it difficult to withstand: one is that of getting into debt with traders; the other is that of looking upon taxes paid to them by their tribe, on account of the Government, as in part a sort of 'benevolence' to themselves. The facility with which they can get into debt, and accumulate debt upon debt, together with the constant pressure of petty creditors, is the primary cause of their appropriating public money to their own uses. This tendency to accept credit, says a late writer, 'is a state of things which occurs in every part of the world in which men of superior race freely trade with men of a lower race. It extends trade no doubt for a time, but it demoralizes the natives, checks true civilization, and does not lead to any permanent increase in the wealth of the country, so that the European Government of such a country must be carried on at a loss.' The custom of Fijians is to pay their taxes in produce or service, and the custom only requires to be properly defined and settled, in order to produce a fair amount of revenue at a moderate cost of collection."

Since writing the Memorandum from which this extract is taken, I have had opportunities of discussing the project with many gentlemen, for whose opinion I have a very high regard, and one great, perhaps the greatest, objection that they have suggested to me, is that the system is utterly un-English, and must of necessity be regarded with great disfavour by Her Majesty's Government. I confess, Sir, that I do not labour under any apprehension of this sort. I do not think that the distinguished nobleman who now presides over the Department with which this Council is chiefly concerned (I mean the Colonial Office) is unable, in looking at native matters, to look at them in a large degree from a native point of view. My impression in this respect has been considerably strengthened lately by the perusal of a despatch from Earl Grey to the late Sir Harry Smith during that officer's administration of the Government of the Cape Colony. In addressing the Governor as to providing funds necessary to his administration, his Lordship conveys the following opinion:—

"The most convenient form of imposing a land tax in a rude state of society, I believe to be that of requiring from all who cultivate the soil a tithe or some other fixed proportion of the produce, as their contribution towards the public expenditure. This is a mode of raising a revenue for public purposes, which seems to have been the first adopted by mankind in the earliest stages of civilization, and to have prevailed generally among all nations in the remotest periods of which we know anything from history, while in Asia it continues to the present day to be almost universal. It is also a mode of taxation which, in an early stage of civilization, when money is scarce, and when little capital has been invested in land, seems to be the least burdensome that can be had recourse to, though in a more advanced state of society it is the reverse."

Sir, this opinion, advice, or instruction given to Governor Sir Harry Smith, had some years before been given to another Governor in another of our African Settlements, but it might really have been written in reference to England's youngest Colony, so consonant is every line of the extract with the policy required in regard to native taxation. There are other remarks in this and other despatches of Earl Grey's of interest—such as the suggestion "that taxation may be the more easily and justly levied in the shape of tribute from the tribe, than of taxes as due from individuals," but I will not trespass upon the courtesy of the Board by dwelling longer upon the supposed objection suggested to me. It is, however, clear, I think, that the principle of the proposed measure is not altogether unknown, or repugnant to the traditions of the Colonial Office.

I stated, Sir, in the conclusion of the extract from my Memorandum just now quoted, that the rule or custom of the Fijians has always been to pay their taxes or tribute in kind. Such is the fact, and to take advantage of this custom, and use it until the native is brought to a clear perception of what is due to himself and the State, and to a higher degree of social and political organization, will not be a diffi-

cult matter. One of the reasons for the introduction of this measure is to avoid the objectionable features connected with the imposition of the money-tax. This reason will, I think, run through most of the remarks which I shall make presently, but I may here say that though all taxes are in one sense bad, they are unfortunately, or fortunately, as the case may be, necessary. It is, however, customary to have, in the imposition of taxes, not only a fair regard to the means, but to the convenience of the tax-payers.

To demand a tax from the native is to ask of him that of which he has least, and that which it is most difficult for him to obtain. It is neither to consult his means nor his convenience. To demand money, is also to force, for the purposes of taxation, a large and ignorant native population into hasty and unfair relationship with the intelligent and astute European. It is to compel the native to deal upon a system of which he knows little, and to put his trust in weights, measures, and coins, of which, if possible, he knows less. To do this, Sir, is, according to my view, to convert the Fijian into a mere tax-paying machine. A machine for the sole purpose of grinding out a given number of pounds, shillings, and pence per annum; but whose grinding power will yearly become less and less, until it may be expressed by a cypher.

That this will be the result I feel certain, without the past crude system of native trade is superseded by the native becoming a cultivator of the soil, and so producing some article or articles of commerce by his personal exertion and industry, instead of entirely depending, as at present, upon the spontaneous growth and natural productions of the country.

In my Memorandum to his Excellency, I have given the fullest consideration and credit to the natural productions of the country as a source of native revenue from material at hand, but I have chiefly referred to them for their temporary value, while more certain plans for the commercial and financial development of the Colony were being matured. The Bill, now before the Board, is one of those plans, and it has for its main object, the creation of an intelligent and simple system by which the industrial powers of the native people will be largely developed, our general commerce largely increased, and our native revenues made dependent upon something like certainty, instead of upon native caprice and chance.

I am happy, Sir, to be in a position to say, and I trust there are honourable members present who can corroborate my statement, that the principal and long-resident merchants here are in favour of this measure, now that they know its general object. When the subject was first mooted, the gravest and most singular rumours were current as to the intentions of the Government. One gentleman asked me if I thought the Government would rent his plantation; and upon my inquiring why, informed me that it was generally understood that the Government were about to make drafts upon every village for a proportion of its men, with the object of employing them upon Government plantations. This gentleman was very much surprised when he learnt that the Government had no intention of "starting plantations," or of going into business in any way. That its object was to accept taxes in produce, in accordance with the express desire of the Chiefs who lately assembled at Draiba; and to this end it intended assisting the people, by organizing for them a system of native plantations in every district; that the land and all upon it would be and remain the property of the people; and that its produce would be sold upon the spot to any person who might become the purchaser.

I may mention, Sir, that another gentleman who, at the date of our meeting, was on the point of leaving in one of his vessels for a cruize to the islands lying to the north-east of this archipelago, was so surprised on hearing this explanation, that he said, "Why, we have heard, and been under the impression up here that the Government was going to collect all the native produce possible, ship it to Sydney, or wherever you could get the best market, deduct the taxes from the result of the sales, and hand the surplus, if there was any, to the natives." This gentleman, who, I may say, is one of the oldest and most experienced merchants in the Group, was so favourably impressed by the scheme, when he understood its object, as to declare, in his opinion, it would be the salvation of the trading community. He assured me that native trade had so fallen off during the last few years, owing to the growing indolence of the natives and the waning power of the Chiefs, as to force him to seek fresh fields for his enterprise in neighbouring groups of islands. I may add, Sir, that I believe the mercantile men of Levuka

have also a clear conception of the aim of the Government in this measure, and that it now meets with their warm support.

The object of the Bill is not to restrict our inter-insular trade, or to divert it from its present channels, but rather to leave them where they are, and swell the gross productions of the Colony, and thus its exports. The object of the Bill is not to deprive the trader of the business he now enjoys, but to let him enjoy it still, *plus* the increase created by the impulse in the producing power of the Colony, to which it is believed this Bill will give rise.

Having now, Sir, said something of the aim and object of the Bill, I do not propose to refer to its provisions or the mode of its operation until it reaches its second reading; but I should like to consider some other objections which I have heard against it. I may, in so doing, further illustrate the reasons for the introduction of this measure, and I shall be glad to take advantage of so full a meeting of the Board.

I have heard, Sir, 1st, that in principle this measure is an interference with the liberty of the subject; 2nd, that it interferes with the sound principles of trade; 3rd, that it prevents the natives sharpening their intellects by dealing (sharp dealing, I presume) with traders; 4th, that the cost of supervising the system, and of collecting the produce will be great, and the waste of produce large; and 5th, that the pecuniary result will be very much less than if a money tax had been imposed, and enforced with a firm hand.

With regard to the first objection, Sir, I must say that the expression liberty of the subject has to me no very clear meaning, It means a different thing in different parts of the globe. If our own nation is referred to, then I have to say that the liberty of the subject differs even in our Colonial positions. The interference of this measure—if there be any interference—is, at least, for the benefit of the native. It simply directs his labours in an intelligent manner, adds to the power and inducement for production, and permits the native to profit by time and money that he now loses.

When a Government notifies thousands of its subjects that they shall not plant or cultivate any particular article,—opium, for instance,—without a license, and that they must, under severe penalties, sell the whole of their produce to the Government,—that is something worthy of being called interference. But the only interference here is that we propose to make a man work to pay a certain quantity of some article of commerce,—kidney cotton, for instance,—whether he likes it or not, certainly; but this Bill does not contemplate interfering with what he does with the remainder of his crop. He may sell it to whomsoever he pleases.

This cry of "liberty of the subject" and "freedom," in regard to the native race and measures affecting them, is, however, out of place, and can have no weight. For years to come the Fijians will require directing and compelling, much in the same way as children at an industrial school, or, in fact, children anywhere, and happy will it be for them if no false doctrines deprive them of this tutelage.

I know, Sir, there are many people who think that the Fijian, who has been a slave to the will of his Chief all the days of his life, should be made free, as they term it. Such a thing, in its full sense, is impossible. Perfect freedom is a thing that must grow upon the people. Freedom from control is another thing; and it is this sort of freedom that is usually meant. In this sense, I may ask, Free to do as he likes? That, for a Fijian, means, first, to do little; then to do nothing; then to disappear from the face of the earth, killed off by an excess of freedom and mistaken kindness. Well, Sir, does it interfere with the freedom and liberty of trade? I think not. There is, or rather was, an impression abroad lately that an Ordinance had been passed making it a misdemeanour for a native to trade with an European. Wild as this impression was, it was generally believed, reported, and commented upon by Colonial newspapers in the most circumstantial way. But it is unnecessary to say that no such Ordinance is either known or contemplated. Properly speaking, freedom of trade can only be said to exist when there is something in common between the parties, some common proportion of ability and experience; but, as a rule, freedom of trade generally tells, not for, but against a native. What chance has he against the superior tact and intelligence of the European? what is the value of native calculation and foresight? Sir, the mission of the civilized man to the semi-savage is pretty much the same all over the world. It is to overreach him in business, and overcome him in war! His "freedom of trade" is not the liberty to trade with, but upon him.

The characteristics of native life in Fiji are much the same as they are everywhere. Its chief phenomena are irregular alternations of excessive labour and excessive repose,—and so it will continue until the fitful and uncertain habits of the people are corrected. This measure is not calculated to interfere with the freedom of trade in any way, as I before said, but its tendency is to promote those habits of steady industry that can alone develop faculties which are requisite to the exercise of an actual, instead of a nominal, freedom in business.

But, Sir, in connection with this question of freedom of trade there is one, and a most important aspect to which I should like to draw the attention of the Board. I have already said that the system of demanding the native tax in money, which has so many advocates, can lead to no permanent good to the Colony, and I will endeavour to explain why, as it is one of the strongest reasons for this measure. The reason is that the native does not produce anything. I use the words—the produce and the producer—in their highest, and not in their lower or more restricted sense. I do not call the man who catches fish, or who searches the woods for gum-resins or dye-woods, a producer. He is a mere collector, a poacher upon nature's preserves. I call that man a producer who, by his personal exertion and industry, causes two blades of grass to grow where only one grew before, or who replaces rank grasses by fields of waving wheat. It is to produce in this sense that I should like to see the Fijian instructed. It is upon certain and and not upon uncertain industry I submit that the revenues of this Colony should depend.

But, Sir, the Fijian does not produce anything beyond a few yams and taro for the use of himself and family,—as, I am sure, all the unofficial members of the Board can affirm. The Fijian simply sells to the trader so much of the natural productions of his forests or seas as he can with some little labour collect. Of these productions, even when collected, he is by no means careful, and, this is an important point, he takes no measures to increase or even maintain the strength of these natural reserves. They have a limit, therefore, which is not very difficult to define. Is the revenue to depend, Sir, upon this uncertain and unintelligent state of affairs? No one, I think, can gainsay my proposition that at present the Fijian is not a producer. He is no more a producer than the native of the Indian seas who dives for pearl shell until he has exhausted the bed, or the half-bred Indian of South America who destroys whole forests to obtain india-rubber or cinchona bark. And I would here ask honourable members what has been the result in all parts of the world, whether civilised or uncivilised, when there has been a constant demand for any natural production, and no foresight has been exercised to maintain the supply? We know that if the supply is not increased in exact ratio to the demand, that harder work, worse pecuniary results, misery, and sometimes famine follows. As Roko Tui Ra said lately at Draiba, "Of bêche de mer there will soon be none, for the drying-houses encompass the whole land." But how are they going to make the supply overtake or keep up with the demand? The natives cannot sow or plant bêche de mer as they do cotton or coffee seed. It will be the same with pearl, tortoise-shell, and other things, upon which the natives, until lately, entirely depended to provide their money-tax and their little luxuries from traders. The supply will become smaller by degrees and beautifully less, or I am very much mistaken.

A few years ago Scottish fishermen got but 3*s.* 6*d.* per hundred for their haddocks, and earned a decent livelihood, they now obtain 12*s.* 6*d.* but work harder and obtain a bare subsistence. The same thing may be said of oyster beds. Constant demand has caused the exhaustion of what were once natural reserves. Men have cut away their supplies without a thought for the future, much in the same manner as we are, or, I hope I may say, as we were, doing here.

Perhaps no place better illustrates the final consequences of commerce depending upon mere natural productions than those parts of Brazil and Peru that are watered by the Amazon and its thousand affluents. The forests there formerly abounded with resins, oils, balsams, gums, textile plants, dye plants, and medicinal plants.

Language would fail to describe the marvellous natural riches of that favoured region. But at the present day few or none of these things are to be found excepting under cultivation. Sarsaparilla, for instance, which years ago was found wild in vast quantities, is now scarcely procurable. In 1860 a party of up-river traders, searching for it, numbering over 100 men, and having with them twelve

'egaritias," or large canoes, only got 61 quintals, or about 8,000 lbs. weight, in nine months.

What is related by travellers, and stated in official returns, as to the decrease in the vegetable products, applies also to the animal life confined to its waters. Fish and other oils were once obtained there in large quantities, but where they once obtained 36,000 arobas of oil per annum, equal to 1,152,000 lbs., they in 1850, barely got 43 arobas, or 1,376 lbs. Can anything better indicate the futility of attempting to base a permanent commerce upon such a foundation.

Originally the Indian of the Amazon only fished to supply himself with food. The white man came, and fished, dug, and sought both for food and for what we call the necessities of commerce, and the result is, to use a mining phrase, that the claim is worked out. And we shall work our claim out here beyond a doubt, and become a permanent charge upon the Imperial Government, if we do not turn our attention to the cultivation of the soil.

I fear, Sir, that I trespass upon the patience of the Board, but I want to impress upon it the one great fact that the native is not a producer. This is the argument which I intend should permeate the whole of my observations. I desire to repeat it again and again, that the native is not a producer. He gathers in his rough way such articles of commerce as nature spontaneously provides, but he does not increase the supply, he does not make the earth more fecund. He lives upon his principal, and burns, as it were, his candle at both ends. Again, I ask, shall the native taxes depend upon this state of things? I trust not; I trust by this measure, or by a better one upon the same principle, that the native may be trained to the steady production of articles in large and constant demand. And, Sir, I believe that, failing such a measure, that failing the attempt—a difficult one I admit—to inculcate something like an agricultural industry among the natives that they will gradually impoverish themselves, and become a trouble and perhaps a charge and burden upon the Colony. On the other hand, I believe that the success of this measure, which will create a healthy and proper necessity to work in the cultivation of coffee, sugar, and other valuable articles of export, will elevate the natives individually, promote their welfare generally, and permanently advance the best interests of the Colony. For these and many other reasons, which I shall be prepared to enter into at a further stage of the Bill, I cannot admit (even if this Bill went far beyond its actual object and intention) that any interference with the freedom of trade can possibly arise.

To the proposition, Sir, that the native idea may be quickened, and that experience in sharp dealing will conduce to their greater ability and perfection, I I shall not stop to reply, but I am quite ready to argue that point if necessary.

Passing on to the question of cost of collection, I may say that I trust this apprehension is more imaginary than real. In large countries, where the receipt of taxes in kind has prevailed, the area has usually been so large that plunder was easy and detection difficult. The area in Fiji is small, and it is possible to use close supervision over the few officers employed in its collection. Neither copra, cotton, fungus, or bêche de mer are of any personal use to the Fijian. The two latter, articles of luxury to the Chinese, are to the Fijian inedible. All such articles are too bulky to be hidden under a bushel, and too low priced to offer any temptation for manipulation. Loss by decay and bad storage may be sustained, but the loss will be less than if money was collected, for reasons which I have indicated before during the course of my remarks.

And now as to the cost or expense. For what will it be incurred? Will it be incurred solely for the collection of revenue? No, Sir, I submit that it will not. Though the question is raised upon the subject of revenue it cannot be confined to it. This Bill has, in fact, a far larger scope, and will exercise a far greater effect than the raising of a given number of pounds, shillings, and pence. With this question, Sir, is involved the whole progress of the Colony. It means the division of the provinces into districts, and the districts into wards, the opening of roads, and facilitation of general intercourse, the appointment of native ports and centres of trade, the preservation and increase of indigenous productions, the introduction of new sources of wealth, the inculcation of intelligent and industrious habits, the better establishment of our native village communities, and, in short, the general organisation and progress of the 120,000 people who have so lately submitted themselves to the protection and rule of Her Majesty. All these things, and more, are incidental to the scheme of which this Bill is the initiatory step. I may be told that it is a theory and will not work. Well, Sir, at least it is an upward theory, and I

venture to prognosticate it is the only one that will work. To look to the natives for money, for the means of acquiring which they turn only to their natural reserves, is a mistake. It will lead to failure, for it is drawing upon the country's principal to which no one thinks of making any fresh deposit. The Treasurer's drafts upon nature's reserves may be issued for awhile and be met, everything may look well and *couleur de rose* at first, but it will not last; ere long the drafts will be returned with the words "no funds" upon them, written in letters only too easily read. The past experience of native revenue collected in money has not been encouraging. The average quarterly returns under the old Government of King Cakobau did not exceed 1,600*l.* per quarter. During the interval from April to September, 1874, the period usually termed the *ad interim* Government, this average was slightly increased. At that time my honourable friend on the right was my colleague as Treasurer. In that six months we received into the Treasury from native sources a little over 4,000*l.*, but this trifling increase arose by reason of causes that are easily explicable. In the first place we received the revenues from the Province of Lau, which we had not done before. Up to that Maafu had collected and carried to his own credit the taxes levied in the Windward Islands. He perhaps had some encouragement in doing this, but when Cakobau's Ministers and Consular Officers, who together formed a provisional Legislative Chamber, signed a joint demand calling upon him to pay over in future, he did so, and thus the revenue was slightly increased.

Again a large amount (comparatively) of tax money was received from North Viti Levu, which prior to that had paid little. But severe pressure was brought to bear upon the natives, a pressure which I do not think this Government will ever feel disposed to exert.

In our best days with much exertion, and with a very fair degree of organisation, our highest receipts were only at the rate of about 6,000*l.* per annum, an average of about 4*s.* per head of taxable men. Such a sum as this is quite inadequate to the administrative necessities of the Colony. Then came annexation, and moved partly by his own views upon the matter, his Excellency Sir Hercules Robinson abolished the money tax, and assessed every male in twenty days' labour per annum, commutable for a money payment varying in its amount in different districts.

Since that time the revenue from native taxation has amounted on an average to about 900*l.* per quarter, just one-half the amount or little more than it was three years ago. Thus experience would seem to indicate that a labour tax in this form is not productive of happy results.

The Honourable the Attorney-General: But virtually the tax was a tax in money.

The Auditor-General: The tax was perhaps virtually a tax in money, for the simple reason that the natives knew nothing about the system or right of commutation. If they had known it, and acted upon it, the result of native revenue collection in money would have been nil. But they did not know it, and were, as a fact, directed by their Chiefs to pay in money. As the question has arisen, Sir, as to what the tax really was, I will, with permission, endeavour to put the case as it exactly stands at this moment. I do so because an issue may arise as to the respective prospects of taxing in "money" or in "kind." To my mind, there is no question at issue between the two systems. The issue is really one between "labour" and "kind." I will show how I arrive at this conclusion, and state the consequence. In his Excellency's message to this Board at the close of the last year, he informed it, in reference to the money poll-tax existing in 1874, that "that system has been abandoned with the entire approval of Her Majesty's Government, and cannot now be resumed." Cannot now be resumed! Then the question still is between taxes in "labour" and taxes in "kind." Now I should like to ask how it is proposed to utilise the labour? Is it possible to bring the able-bodied men of Lau, the men of Ra and Yasawa, or the men of any other remote part of the Colony for twenty days to Levuka, where, if brought, it would be necessary to create public works for the mere sake of employing them? I think not; this plan would be very expensive and impracticable. Well, could they be employed in their own provinces for twenty days, and if so upon what work? For plantation work the term would be too brief. The same remark applies to road making, or any other similar employment. Then, again, the men must be fed while at work, and have European officers with them to direct their operations. In effect the whole plan is impracticable, and results in nothing, and in consequence the question really is

whether we shall take taxes in "kind" or nothing. That, Sir, is the result at which I think every candid man must arrive.

I do not propose, Sir, to enter into any details as to the proposed working of the Ordinance; that I would rather leave until it arrives at its second reading, or is considered in Committee. My principal object this morning has been to show (I feel that I have succeeded very imperfectly) that the object of this measure is to place our sources of native revenue upon something like a footing of security. I have attempted also to show that the future of the native people depends upon their industry, upon their being taught to improve their agricultural habits, and upon their assistance to swell our colonial exports; not by the fugitive and occasional gathering of nuts and bêche de mer, but by cultivating the soil and "giving nature both thanks and use."

Sir, I believe that nothing short of this measure can prevent the native remaining a mere machine for the special benefit of his white master. No other measure can so readily effect a beneficial change in the habits and manners of the people. It does not interfere with the liberty of persons, or the liberty of trade. It is calculated to promote and not restrict our commercial operations; and when its advantages and anticipated results are fairly estimated, cannot be impugned as likely to entail an unjustifiable expense in its supervision.

Of all the arts, writes a celebrated French author, tillage, or agriculture, is doubtless the most useful and necessary, as being the source whence the nation derives its subsistence. The cultivation of the soil causes it to produce an infinite increase; it forms the surest resources and the most solid fund of riches and commerce for a nation that enjoys a happy climate. The formation, Sir, of a solid fund of riches and commerce, or, in other words, the formation of certain resources of native revenue contemporaneously with the introduction of a new form of native taxation, is the aim or object of the measure which has been entrusted to my care.

I now beg leave to move, Sir, the first reading of an Ordinance to regulate the assessment and collection of native revenue.

The Honourable G. Hennings had much pleasure in rising to second the motion of the Auditor-General. In doing so, he felt it his duty to state that his knowledge and experience of the native race, acquired during his fourteen years' residence in this country, led him to believe that the measure proposed was the only one likely to produce a native revenue adequate to the needs of the Colony, and make, at the same time, a legitimate trade that would benefit both races. The want of steady and intelligent industry among the natives was beginning to be strongly felt, as the exports (excepting those produced by settlers) consisted of articles which in nearly all cases were the indigenous and spontaneous fruits of the land or sea. It was not necessary for him to point out the consequent precarious state of native trade, or the probability that the growing apathy of the natives to reproduce and foster the growth of commercial productions would yearly decrease, and that all hope of raising a revenue from natives would dwindle away into a mere nothing. He believed that this was a timely measure, and that the establishment of cotton and other plantations in the different districts would be profitable; and he felt that the prospect of a certain source of wealth from the scheme was as encouraging as the climate and the soil of the Colony were inviting. Cotton could be easily grown by the natives, as they were well acquainted with its culture. He remembered that the exports of cotton in one year, he thought in 1866, amounted to about 360 tons, from Rewa alone. For some reason, however, the natives had given up their old agricultural habits, and, at present, barely did anything in the way of work. He would also point out that the native chiefs had long felt the necessity of exerting their power to create plantations, to compel their tribes to plant both food and cocoa-nut trees. For some few years past this exertion on their part had been decreasing, and it frequently now happened that if the bread and other forest fruits were destroyed by a gale of wind, the people were reduced to the verge of starvation. He quite agreed that, if the natives were allowed to do as they liked, they would simply do nothing at all. Since this scheme had been under consideration, he had conversed with a large number of mercantile men, and in all instances the measure proposed by the Honourable the Auditor-General had been heartily approved of. In conclusion, he begged to second the motion for the first reading of the Ordinance, as a measure which he believed to be based upon a correct idea of commercial wants and upon a common sense view of the present condition and abilities of the native race.

The Honourable R. Ryder supported the measure introduced by the Honourable

the Auditor-General, although he confessed that, when he first heard of the scheme of collecting the native taxes in kind in lieu of money, he was not convinced that it was a wise step. He had, however, since then gone very fully into the matter, with those best informed on the subject, and he believed that the proposed mode was well worthy of trial, and would, he thought, if properly carried out, prove a success. It was, if carried, adopting a mode in the collection of the native revenue which would no doubt give a large amount of extra trouble to the Honourable the Receiver-General, as compared with the simple mode in which a money-tax could be collected; but he thought there would be so great a difference in the amount of revenue accruing to the Treasury that they were bound to look to the results. The Honourable the Auditor-General had treated the subject in a most exhaustive manner, but he should have liked to have heard a little further detail as to the mode of working the proposed native plantations; but no doubt the mover of the Ordinance was right in reserving such details until its second reading came on. He was satisfied that the cultivation of the inferior and more prolific cottons would be a step in the right direction, but very much would depend upon proper and constant supervision. He would also like to be informed what provision would be made for the due collection of the amount of taxation assessed for a particular district if a proportion of the male inhabitants of that district elected to work or engage their services with settlers in other and distant ones. Are those natives who remain to pay the whole assessment of their district, or would the amount earned elsewhere, and in another manner, go to the credit of the district whence the taxpayers departed? In carrying out the working of this Ordinance, no doubt great vigilance would have to be exercised, as one of the principal objections to the assessment of communities is the probability of a large proportion of people in each village, friends of the Chief, leading men, young Chiefs, and others, escaping altogether, and throwing the whole burden on the remainder. In his Excellency's late Message to this Council he has clearly informed us that the money system of native taxation was abolished by Sir Hercules Robinson, who substituted a lower rate of poll-tax, primarily payable in labour, though redeemable in money, at the option of the taxpayer." We are also informed in that Message, relative to the money poll-tax, that "that system has also been abandoned, and cannot now be resumed."

He thought, therefore, that the Government was left only the adoption of a scheme of native taxation in kind. Bearing in mind the axiom that "soil is the source of wealth, while merchants and others are the mere disseminators of it," it was incumbent on the Government to adopt the course which would draw the greatest amount of wealth from the soil, and at the same time instruct and improve the native, who had hitherto not deserved the name of a producer. After carefully considering this matter, and discussing it with his two colleagues and others, he had come to the conclusion that the payment of native taxation in kind, as provided for by the Ordinance now before the Council, would be both expedient and productive of a large amount of revenue, and he therefore gave a very cordial support to the motion for its first reading.

The Honourable J. C. Smith had much pleasure in supporting the first reading of the Ordinance introduced by the Honourable the Auditor-General. The idea of getting the natives to pay their taxes in kind instead of coin was not a new one to him. In the byegone days of the late Fijian Government, when the necessity of raising a revenue was more felt than now, he had advocated this system. He could well understand that, looked at from an English or Australian point of view, it had many objections; but, looked at from a Fijian standpoint (and that was the point from which to look at it), and taking into consideration the peculiar and exceptional position of the Colony, and the uncivilized state of its native inhabitants, it offered many and just advantages. He could remember, in the years 1867, 1868, and 1869, that the natives used to produce and bring to market large quantities of native-grown cotton and cocoa-nut oil, &c., and that there was a constant demand for bags to hold the former, and tins to hold the latter. At that time the exports of the country consisted very largely of native productions. There was no Government in those days, and the natives were taxed only by their Chiefs, not in coin, but in produce; hence the large production and prosperity of the country at the time referred to. Then came the days of the late Fijian Government, when in the eyes of the law all men were equal, and the taxes had to be paid in coin, the result was that the native produced less and less every year, and now produce almost nothing. He believed a much larger revenue could be raised by the means now proposed than if the old system was adhered to. He expected at first, and until the scheme was

got into thorough working order, that the results would not be so large as might be anticipated; but once the difficulties of detail were overcome, and competent persons appointed to see the initiatory work properly carried out in the province, he felt sanguine of the plan proving a great success. He very cordially supported the first reading of the Ordinance.

His Excellency observed that when the Ordinance came before the Board for a second reading, its details could be gone into. He was not sorry to hear his honourable friend Mr. Ryder term it the Auditor-General's scheme, for if it attained the success which it certainly merited, it would be entirely due to the energy, clear-sightedness, and perseverence of the honourable gentleman by whom the measure had been introduced, and who would be charged with the superintendence of its working. In reference to the inquiry of his honourable friend, as to how the assessment upon provinces or districts would be adjusted in cases where numbers of natives left home and employed themselves with settlers, living in other districts, he thought that matter would adjust itself. There were a great number of Fijians in service now, and it was reasonable to suppose that they would be constantly coming and going, and thus maintain at home the average population that had been estimated. But if there were to arise any great diminution of the population in any of the provinces, it would, of course, be a matter for consideration whether the amount of assessment should not be reduced. Touching the possible favouritism shown by Chiefs, by which an undue share of the common burden might be thrown upon those who were not their personal friends, his Excellency thought that it must be left to the care and watchfulness of the supervising officers. He did not think, however, that the opportunities for wrong-doing would be half so numerous, or half so mischievous, as under a money-tax. The collection of a money-tax must necessarily be left in the hands of native officials, and there was no opportunity of checking peculation, on the one hand, or undue leniency to particular persons upon the other. As regarded the measure generally, his Excellency quite concurred with the observations of the Auditor-General. He believed it to be one by which a greatly increased revenue would be collected, in a manner far freer from exception than any other scheme that could be adopted. He further believed that it would stimulate native industry, largely benefit the commercial interests of the Colony, and prove a powerful instrument for the education and general elevation of the Fijian people.

The Ordinance was then read a first time, and the Council adjourned.

No. 31.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received March 29.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, February 16, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the address made to the Kai Colos at Na Vola on the 5th ultimo.

2. Your Lordship must remember in reading it that it was prepared with a view to its effect on its Fijian auditors, and that the peculiar forms of expression are due to the fact that it is in truth a translation from Fijian.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

Inclosure in No. 31.

To you assembled,

I AM going to make a speech to you.

Now, all of you have heard of the great meeting that was held at Navuso last year.

You all know how all the Chiefs of the interior came down from the heads of the Waidina, the Wai ni buka, the Wai ni mala, and from Namosi, Neqarawai, from Noe Roso, and from the banks of the Sigatoka River, and from all the interior of Navitilevu, and gave in their allegiance to the Queen of Great Britain.

Well, after a time the Queen sent me, a Chief of Great Britain, out here to govern Fiji, to put an end to discord, murder, and cannibalism, and to rule all alike and to prevent oppression.

Well, I arrived, and all the great Chiefs of the various islands and coasts of Fiji held meetings at Levuka and at Bau. At the former place I was installed, and read my Commission from the Queen. At the latter the Chiefs all assembled and prepared the "yagona." The "yagona" was made, and the Vuni Valu at Bau, in the presence of all, handed the cup to me, and I drank. All Fiji gave there its solemn pledge of obedience.

Now, heretofore it would have been impossible for any one person to have ruled all Fiji, and it would even now be difficult to do so, but for one circumstance, and that is the perfect unanimity of all the great Chiefs, such as the Vuni Valu at Bau, Maafu, Tui Cakau, Tui Bua, the Chief of Macuata, the Chiefs of Rewa, Nadroga, Kadavu, and in fact of all the Chiefs, in regard to this matter.

They believed that if a Chief of Great Britain were sent to govern Fiji, there would be an end of their perpetual jealousies, so that now, if any one Chief or tribe or section of the country were to become unruly, all the others would assist the Governor in suppressing any disturbance. So you see that peace is secured to Fiji by the fact that all are equally interested in and compelled to put down any disturbance that may hereafter arise. Well, all this could not be if Fiji were ruled by a native Chief, and the country is now strong to suppress evil because all are of one mind in the matter.

Now, all those tribes in the region of and on the other side of the great mountains which separate the waters that flow out at Sigatoka mouth from the waters that flow into the sea at Rewa are now enjoying the benefits of peace, and are living in plenty and comfort, and without fear of attack from without. And now I ask, why is this? I will tell you. Because those Chiefs are men of truth, they are men of character. At the meeting at Navuso, when asked a second time if they were sure they meant what they said when they declared their allegiance to the Queen, they replied, "We are Chiefs; we are men of truth; we never alter what we have once said to deceive others, as some of the coast Chiefs do. We have given our allegiance this day to the Queen, and we intend to abide by it. We think it will be well for us, but, even if it should turn out to be for our harm, we abide by it all the same."

And they have kept their word, and are continuing to act as Chiefs should act; and I tell you they are much respected at this present time for their upright behaviour.

Now, you must know that those tribes I have been talking about are very populous; they inhabit a country thick with trees, with steep hills and precipices and water-falls,—a really difficult country and of large extent. I see present the Chief of Nabuto, who also attended that meeting, and has a good knowledge of the men and the districts I have now spoken about; he can confirm all I have said of them to you.

The district from which you present have come is of altogether a different nature, consisting of low hills, open and grassy, that can be ridden over by a man on horseback, and of comparatively small extent.

Now, some of you belonging to this small part of the interior, and which is of such easy access, have been acting in an unruly manner lately; and, while all the rest of Fiji is at peace, some of you alone are causing disturbance by bad conduct.

Now, I ask you to cease doing evil; remember your women and children, and live at peace. Travel to the salt water whenever you wish to do so; we like you to visit us on the coast. Plant plenty of food, instead of going about making disturbance. Let us all live at peace, so that guns will be of no further use, and let the defensive works of your villages be thrown down and the trenches filled up.

I tell you let there be an end of all this trouble; of what utility is all this evil doing?

Of one matter you may rest assured for ever—the Governor will never oppress you, neither will he allow the Chiefs on the coast to make requisitions of you or to interfere with you.

You have constantly said that you feared and detested the coast Chiefs on account of their overbearing manner to you heretofore. Now I tell you that is at an end; and, with reference to religion, you are now perfectly free to accept Christianity or not, at your free will and pleasure, but you may not adopt or continue practices calculated to bring trouble on the people, or to cause war or ill-feeling between tribes.

No person can become a Christian except through the sincere conviction of his

own mind. I think religion is a great benefit to all, but I shall never insist on your becoming Christians unless you wish it; neither shall I allow any one to molest you on account of your refusing to do so. But it is different with regard to the laws I make for you. I make them for your good, and they must be obeyed by all.

There is one matter of the very greatest importance—you must recognize and obey the rule of Great Britain. You know you cannot be suffered, after having voluntarily given your allegiance, to say afterwards that you are not under the ruling of Great Britain.

And now there are only five other things of great importance that are strictly forbidden to you, that is—

1. You must not commit murder.

2. You must not drag off women nor compel them to take men they dislike as husbands, for this leads to adultery, and that to murder, and wars between tribes.

3. You must not steal, neither may you annoy the settlers on the coast. It is a very good thing for you to go to the coast, and you shall not be prevented, but you must not molest the settlers.

4. You must not allow the carrying about of false reports calculated to cause trouble.

5. You must give up wrongdoers to justice, no matter who they are nor what crime they are charged with.

It is intended to establish a camp in the interior in your midst, and to appoint a person to live there with a body of police, and he will act as the Governor's substitute, and orders will be given him from time to time what to do. You must follow his counsels, obey him, and he will assist you, and generally take the lead in ruling the interior.

The Governor himself has much to do, as there are many islands in Fiji, and no person could possibly do all the work himself.

As for the police, they will not be allowed to act oppressively, and all food taken to them will be honestly and well paid for at the time. By reason of this, and on other accounts, the people of that district where the camp shall be established will become more wealthy and have more influence than that of any other part of Vitilevu.

Now also the laws for the ruling of the people of the interior will be made more easy and simple of comprehension than those for the ruling of the people living on the coast under the Rokos, as at Rewa, Nadroga, Nadi, and Ba. You will be ruled under a different system to these, but this is not to interfere with matters of trade or barter amongst you, nor to affairs of neighbourly or friendly good feeling.

Also this is provided you—you will not, at least for some time, be asked to assist by contributing to the support of the Government of the country; it may be for a year, or for two or three years, or for five years. When you become sufficiently enlightened as to be able to understand the principles under which the country will be ruled you will then have to do the same as those on the coasts have to do.

Understand this: it is not pretended that Great Britain has conquered you, as though you had been taken in war, to be enslaved or carried off to other places.

You are not a conquered people, but Great Britain has joined you to her in order that peace might be established in the country, and for the welfare of all alike. Now remember what you have been told on this point.

And now, as it is not good to give too many orders, little remains to say but this.

Remember the welfare of your wives, your children, and your old people, and plant abundance of food, and live at peace, and any person committing crime shall certainly be punished for it. He may hide for a year or for several years, but he will certainly be caught at some time and receive punishment. Of that rest certain.

Now, some of you Chiefs will come to my house to-night and converse with me on many matters, and when you return to your homes you can tell those who have shown distrust by not coming here that I do not feel pleased at their conduct, which is unbecoming in men holding the rank of Chiefs of Fiji.

This is all the Governor has to say at present.

No. 32.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received March 29.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, February 16, 1876.*

IN my despatch of the 19th January,* I reported my intention to establish, with the consent of the native inhabitants of the district, a camp of constabulary in the interior, at which the Commissioner for the Highlands would reside.

2. I have now the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a report of proceedings since the 5th January. Mr. Carew has displayed in these transactions his usual good sense and discretion, and I am confident that his presence in the interior will very shortly produce the most satisfactory results.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 32.

Sir, *Nasaucoko, January 19, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to forward the following report of our proceedings since the date of the meeting held by his Excellency the Governor at Navola on the 5th instant.

On the day following I embarked on board the Steam-Ship "Fitzroy," accompanied by Captain Olive, the Superintendent of Police, with the party of police forming the guard of honour of his Excellency during the meeting, and arrived at Cavu Nadroga on the same day.

On the 7th January we embarked the remainder of the police and stores to the number of, in all, 140 men, and arrived in the afternoon at Nadi, from whence we started for the interior on the 13th, taking with us a number of the coast men of Nadi and Sabeto to carry our baggage and the ammunition, camping for the night at a village called "Waiwai," on the summit of the range dividing the watersheds of the Nadi river and the Sigatoka.

On the 14th we proceeded on our march, arriving in the evening at Nasaucoko, a village situated on the Wai-tabu-cake, branch of the Sigatoka river, and four miles from the village called "Wala," and sent out messengers to inform the neighbouring tribes of our arrival and intentions.

On the following Monday, the 17th instant, we started with the ammunition, leaving all our baggage at Nasaucoko, and proceeded in the direction of a small village marked "Vatu" on the sketch map.

After proceeding about three miles, we were met by Nagusudradra, a minor chief of the Naqaqa tribe; after holding a consultation with him, and finding that the whole of the tribes from Nabutautau to the mouth of the Sigatoka were assembling in great force, and that if we proceeded we should certainly be cut off from the coast and be without means of procuring any food whatever in a hostile country, and would, moreover, lose the whole of our baggage left at Nasaucoko, and be the cause of the immediate slaughter of the inhabitants by the tribes, who were enraged at their receiving us in their town, I determined to retire at once to Nasaucoko, and form the police camp until the expiration of the hurricane months now commencing.

I was, moreover, moved to this determination by my desire to avoid forcing a collision with the rebels, and I am now more than ever convinced by subsequent events that I adopted the wisest course under the circumstances.

The enemy were in such force and were so excited by the sudden and unexpected nature of our arrival, that if we had determined to proceed we must have lost many of our small force and have commenced a war which would have found us with our small force quite inadequately prepared for.

On our return a woman came in to say that, on the first discharge of a gun, the Beimana and other people were waiting to rush into Nasaucoko, slaughter the people, and take the whole of our baggage.

I have decided to fortify this position by repairing the palisading, &c., and to remain and await the course of events.

* No. 26.

We have since heard that the tribes had all dispersed after quarrelling among themselves, destroying some of their food plantations, and killing a man.

A rebel town has also, I have learned, fenced itself in and declared for the Government.

The Chief of Beimana has shown signs of friendship, and I expect a visit from him to-day or to-morrow.

It is quite evident that our arrival has thrown the whole of this part of the interior, consisting of about 150 villages, into the greatest consternation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WALTER S. CAREW,

Resident Commissioner for Colo.

The Hon. A. Havelock,
Colonial Secretary, Ovalau.

Inclosure 2 in No. 32.

Sir, *Nasaucoko, Colo, February* 7, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward the following information in continuation of my despatch of January 19, reporting our arrival here, and my intention, unless otherwise ordered, to remain here until the close of the rainy season.

At the time of writing my last despatch, the panic and excitement in the minds of the tribes, caused by what they professed to consider an audacious and abrupt appearance among them, was at its height, but has now subsided.

The Chief of Beimana has paid me a visit to assure me of his perfect loyalty to the Government, and I believe him to be sincere.

Also, I have received assurances from several villages of their intention to remain true to their allegiance, given in at Navaso last year.

It is apparent to me now that the rebellious tribes are perplexed in mind and very anxious, and I have given out that "I am ready to hold out the hand of friendship to all who possess clean hands," but have assured all parties that every person who has committed crime since the hoisting of the British flag shall most certainly be brought to justice.

At present I can do nothing more than wait to give the tribes an opportunity of realizing the great fact that the camp is permanent, and at the conclusion of the rainy season it will, I believe, be necessary to drive out the Naqaqa people and those from Nabutautau, and then form the permanent camp somewhere in this vicinity on the Sigatoka river.

I do not consider it in the least probable that any tribes who have committed crime, or taken active part in resisting the Government, will give in unless they had an amnesty full and complete for all past offences.

I have the honour to state, in conclusion, that I intend to leave this for Levuka at the end of this month, when I trust to make matters clear, which, from absence of maps, would now seem to be an impossibility.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WALTER S. CAREW.

Resident Commissioner for Colo.

The Hon. A. E. Havelock,
Colonial Secretary, Ovalau.

No. 33.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received April 18.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, January* 25, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a Report from Lieutenant Colonel Pratt, R. E., Surveyor-General, and Dr. MacGregor, Chief Medical Officer, on the eligibility of Suva as a site for the capital.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 33.

Sir, *Levuka, November* 27, 1875.

IN accordance with your instructions, we, accompanied by Lieutenant Lake, R.E., proceeded to Suva on the 11th instant, examined the ground in the vicinity of Suva Bay, and returned to Levuka on the 21st instant.

The following statement shows the nature of the work performed:—

Journal Date.

Left Levuka at 9·45 A.M., but were so long in crossing to the Rewa River, that the owner of the steamer would go no further than Na Dawa. November 11.

Landed at Suva at 10·30 A.M. Inspected the ground from the Store to the south of native village and about a mile inland. November 12.

Went about two miles to the north-east to Mr. Cuthbert's plantation, looking for water and at the general configuration of the ground; then to Suva Point, and back to Suva. November 13.

Went across the watershed to Laucala Bay, and inspected that district. November 14.

Looking for sites for reservoirs at Suva, making military sketch, sanitary inspection of native town, inspecting head of Suva harbour. November 15.

Military sketch continued up Tamavua River as far as whale-boat could go; inspected native town up the river as far as canoe could go, and on as far as it was practicable to walk up the bed of the stream. November 16.

Inspected the river and native town of Vei-sese, and the river and native town of Lami. November 17.

Sketch continued. Sinking holes for water at Suva and getting geological specimens. November 18.

Two of the party made a further inspection of the upper part of Lami River, and one the western side of Suva Bay, to a point twelve miles from the head of the bay. November 19.

Returned to Na Dawa. November 20.

Returned to Levuka. November 21.

Trace of ground.

The attached rough tracing indicates the portion of ground which was inspected.

General description of ground.

The ground lying between Suva Bay and Laucala Bay is extremely undulating and mostly covered with dense undergrowth and trees. It would be very difficult to trace the watershed running from Suva Point to the northward. The highest points on the ridge are 400 to 500 feet above the sea-level, and these points are about the centre of the peninsula.

Laucala.

On the eastern side, towards Laucala Bay, the undulations of the hills merge into a mangrove swamp some hundred yards wide down to high-water mark.

Suva.

On the western side, towards Suva Bay, the undulation of the hills continues down to high-water mark between the Star Creek and the native town of Suva.

Head of Suva Bay.

At the head of Suva Bay is a mangrove swamp of from one-half to three-quarters of a mile in depth, and intersected by three creeks caused by the rivers Vei-sese, Lami, and Tamavua.

From the edge of the swamp northward, the ground begins to undulate, the ridges getting successively higher till the watershed of the Wai Manu River is reached. All the ground here is densely timbered.

West of Suva Bay.

On the west side of Suva Bay the ground rises more abruptly, and is densely timbered, with strong undergrowth from the great rainfall. There are no creeks or rivers. Water very shallow.

The water at the head of Suva Bay is very shallow at all times of the tide.

Site at Laucala.

Laucala Bay affords good anchorage, but as the tide leaves from 400 to 500 yards of reef bare at low water, as the bay is fringed with mangrove swamp, intersected here and there with brackish creeks, and no water-supply is available, the land bordering on the bay is not well-adapted for a town site.

East side of Suva Bay.

From the point marked on trace as Star Creek down to the native town of Suva, the undulation of the hills, as before stated, extends to high-water mark.

Attached is a military sketch of this portion of ground, which appears to be the most suitable site for building operations, if certain difficulties as to water-supply be overcome.

The southern slope of Star Creek is too steep for building on. From the ridge of this slope to the Nubuluko Creek, the ground is very irregular and undulating, and is mostly covered with dense undergrowth and trees. From the Nubulako creek to the native town of Suva, the undulation of ground and slopes towards the

sea are more gradual, and would afford a good building site, the ridges for nearly a mile inland rising successively to an altitude estimated as 160 feet.

Soil. The soil here is a light loam, in many places very shallow, and resting on an imperfectly-laminated clay-stone, erroneously called soap-stone. This stone varies in depth and density, and will probably be found to grow harder as the depth of cutting increases.

The stone is impervious to water, and tanks or reservoirs cut out in the rock would probably require no puddling or retaining walls.

Water supply. There is no doubt that the difficulty of settling a large population on this site is the want of a proper water-supply. A tank to contain sufficient water to supply a population of 1,200 with ten gallons a-day for two months, would involve an excavation of 120 ft. by 80 ft. by 12 ft., allowing for no waste.

The gathering ground for such a reservoir, or two tanks half the size, would, from the nature of the site, be small and within the limits of the township, thereby being liable to be impurified.

The expedition to Mr. Cuthbert's plantation, for some miles in a north and easterly direction, satisfied us that water could not well be obtained in that direction.

Water from Tamavua River. But, on the 16th instant, we proceeded up the Tamavua River.

There is a plentiful supply of good water from this source—apparently a good fall for the conveyance of water, and a possibility of bringing the water some four or five miles in iron pipes. A decisive opinion as to the difficulty, the amount of water, and the gradient, could only be arrived at after a track through the bush had been cleared and a correct line of levels taken.

On the hill to the south of Nubuluko Creek we found a spring; but it will be necessary to sink a well or well-tubing before pronouncing on the existence of water or otherwise at Suva ridge. We think it probable that there is water, but the amount is problematical.

It appears possible that water from the Tamavua River might advantageously be stored in tanks on the ground immediately south of the Star creek (levels permitting), and thence supplied as required.

Of course, on a site like this, the dry-earth system of closets would be used, and arrangements might be ordered whereby the rainfall on houses might be utilized.

Nabuliko Creek. The Nubuliko creek supplies a considerable quantity of water during rain, but then runs dry. This creek is fringed with a belt of mangrove swamp, which could easily be reclaimed, and the creek used as a boat harbour.

The foreshore at the mouth of the creek might easily be reclaimed down to low-water mark, the reclamation to be carried as far south as may be found desirable. These reclaimed sites would be very valuable for commercial purposes, store-houses, &c.

Extension of town. A town on the site suggested could be extended in a southerly direction over the native reserve land, which is adapted for building purposes.

Communication. A road could be constructed so as to place this site in direct communication with Rewa.

Rainfall. We saw no signs of excessive rainfall on the Suva ridge, and it appears probable that a large proportion of the rain which is carried over this ridge is deposited on the higher and more densely timbered ground to the north and west of Suva Bay.

Tamavua River. This stream brings a large body of water into the creek at the head of Suva Bay.

We took a whale-boat up to near the native town, which is on the top of a precipitous hill some hundred yards from the river, and about a mile from the head of Suva Bay. The sanitary condition of the town was good (report attached). We then proceeded a mile or so further in a canoe, which could not be got farther, then walked up the bed of the stream. The average width here was 30 to 40 feet, the water often 2 ft. 6 in. deep, and a good current.

Rather less than a mile from where the canoe was left, a waterfall 40 or 50 feet in height came into the stream from the north bank. It being an exceptionally dry season, the amount of water falling was inconsiderable. In wet weather there must be a heavy fall. A quarter of a mile farther on the stream bifurcates.

We ascended the northern branch for several hundred yards. The bed of the stream is here cut out of the solid rock, with deep holes and fissures. At the point where we stopped the sides of the river were precipitous, and there was a cut across the river ten feet deep from bank to bank, and many yards wide, forming a natural

reservoir. The altitude of this point appears to be 130 to 140 feet above sea-level, but it is very difficult to estimate correctly such altitudes.

The river is about forty yards wide up to the native town, with alluvial flats, and steep ground in the immediate neighbourhood. As the river is ascended, the hills close in on the river and get gradually steeper.

Vei Sese River. We proceeded in a whale-boat up the Vei Sese Creek to the native town (Sanitary Report attached) but a few hundred yards above the town the mangrove bushes nearly closed the stream, which appears to be an inconsiderable one.

Lami River. We ascended the Lami Creek to the native town, which is on a low wet site, surrounded by mangrove swamp, and about half-a-mile from the bay. On this first occasion we had to return to Suva Bay to save the tide.

On a second occasion Dr. McGregor and Lieutenant Lake proceeded further up the Lami River, while Lieutenant-Colonel Pratt was examining on the west point of Suva Bay.

There is a large body of good water in this stream, and undulating ground on the bank at one or two miles from the head of Suva Bay, on which buildings could be placed. Timber and stone are abundant. But the mangrove swamp would have to be cleared down to the sea, precautions taken against inundation of the ground cleared, and a channel cut out for a long distance at the head of Suva Bay to render access possible for boat at all times of the tide. As before stated, the water at the head of Suva Bay is extremely shallow.

The following is a short recapitulation of points referred to :—

Recapitulation. 1. Near Laucala Bay there is no good building site.

2. The ground to the north of the native town of Suva is the best site if water can be obtained.

3. Water may be obtained at Suva by boring, or by leading it from the Tamavua River ; experiment requires to be made.

4. The only other site is on the banks of the Lami River where the water difficulty is got over, but there is a difficulty and expense in providing access.

(Signed) F. E. PRATT, *Lieutenant-Colonel, R.E.*
WM. McGREGOR, *M.D.*

His Excellency the Governor of Fiji,
&c. &c. &c.

Sanitary Report.

As the sanitary condition of a native town near any proposed site is to a great extent an index to the healthiness or otherwise of that site, inquiry has been made as to the condition of Tamavua, Suva, Lami, and Vei Sese, and a Report is subjoined.

Suva Town. This town when inspected contained 169 inhabitants. Of these 160 were healthy, 5 children suffered from coko, 1 child rheumatism from coko, 1 man inflammation of groin gland, 1 old woman bronchitis, 1 man fever and dysentery.

It appears, therefore, that there is no endemic disease in this locality, and that the sanitary condition is very satisfactory. Coko is a disease common to Fijian children. The only serious case, viz., fever and dysentery, could not be traced as having its origin in any malarial source. During the measles' epidemic Suva lost about one-fourth of its population.

Tamavua Town. This town contains forty-four inhabitants. Of these, one child suffered from coko, one man from erysipelas.

About one-fourth of the original inhabitants died of measles.

The sanitary condition is very satisfactory.

Lami Town. The Chief, the missionary, and most of the men absent from this town, so that exact statistics as to numbers could not be obtained, but there was sufficient evidence to show that the place was in a healthy condition.

Vei Sese Town. The absence of chief and men from this town as far as Lami prevented the collection of proper statistics that the place was evidently not in a healthy or satisfactory condition.

General remarks. From the configuration of the ground and the appearance of the vegetation it is seen that there is at Tamavua, Lami, and Vei Sese a much heavier rainfall than at Suva. The three first-named towns are backed by high and densely-wooded ranges, while the Suva ridge is opener, undulating, and wind-swept.

The hard impervious clay rock underlying the Suva ridge insures a healthy site as far as geological reasons are concerned.

The configuration and tenure of the land near Suva would admit of almost any extent of ground being acquired readily for Government or town purposes.

Inclosures 2 and 3 in No. 33.

Maps.

No. 34.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received April 18.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, January 25, 1876.*

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch of the 17th of November,* respecting the site of the future seat of Government.

2. When I dispatched my telegram of the 19th instant I had not received this despatch, had I done so that telegram would, if sent at all, have been somewhat differently worded.

3. I have now the honour to forward the Report of Lieutenant-Colonel Pratt, R.E., Surveyor-General, which points out forcibly the unsuitability of Levuka as a site for the seat of Government, and the extreme risk and expense which would attend any attempt to render it suitable for a capital.

4. In Lieutenant-Colonel Pratt's observations I entirely concur.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 34.

Sir, *Levuka, January 25, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to submit a Report as to the site of the town of Levuka.

General position. I attach a trace, giving the compass bearings, and roughly indicating the site of the town and the lay of the country in its immediate neighbourhood. From this it will be seen that a range of hills, of which the steep slopes come down to the sea-beach, extends from the site of the town for miles to the north and south. Here and there, as at Vagadace, Levuka Driembu, and Nai koro koro, there are bays of small extent, the landward fringe of each bay being a flat alluvial deposit, formed of the *detritus* washed down from the hills; the low land being from 4 to 10 feet above high-water mark, and of limited extent.

The deposit on which Levuka is built covers some 40 acres. In the other bays in the vicinity, the area between high-water mark and the steep slope of the hill does not exceed an acre or two per day.

Winds. The prevailing trade wind being from the south-east, it will be seen that, during the colder part of the year, when this wind is prevalent, the current of the wind blows straight into the town from the sea, but is stopped by the high back-ground; while, during the excessive heat, when the wind is from the north, the site of the town is, if I may use the term, airless.

Harbour. The position of the coral reef following the direction of the coast-line at a distance of about one mile from shore, with the passages opposite Levuka, anchorages, shelter from hurricanes, &c., have, I believe been fully reported on by the Naval Department.

Site of Levuka. As before stated, the town of Levuka is built generally on a flat piece of ground, lying between the foot of the hills and high-water mark.

Levuka flat. I attach an illustrative sketch of the general conformation of the ground, on which the level part, that is, the part adapted for a town, is coloured green.

Area. The area of this part of the ground is 40 acres. In no part is it more than 10 feet above the level of the sea, and in many parts only 3 or 4 feet.

Hill slopes at Levuka. The hill-sides round this level portion are steep, from 10 to 35 degrees; mostly very hard conglomerate rock, cropping out on the surface of the ground.

* No. 33 of C. 1404 of 1876.

(1625 10/16. 1531)[F. 0.658]

SKETCH PLAN OF GROUND

NEAR

S U V A.

Scale 6 inches = 1 mile.

(1825. 10/96. 1531) [F.O. 658]

To extend the town up these slopes, it would be necessary to lay out the hill-sides in terraces. These terraces, even if only made the width of a path, with sites of houses on one side of the path, would be very large works; the entire width of site required must be blasted out of the solid rock, and then the sites would be most undesirable from the refracted heat. Terracing and extension of town inland.

The buildings of which Levuka is composed consist of about 300 edifices. The best of them slightly framed, weather-boarded, wooden houses; most of them one storey, some twenty or thirty of two storeys; all of them houses which, in a richer Colony, would be esteemed of but little value. I should say that an average good house in Levuka would stand or last about seven or eight years. Present state of buildings in Levuka.

The water with which Levuka is supplied is taken from the two mountain rivulets shown on sketch. There is no doubt but that, with considerable outlay, arrangements could be made for storing the water of these streams at high levels, and supplying the town properly. At present the arrangements for getting water are in a crude state, but improvement in this respect will shortly be made. Water supply.

On one point there is no doubt. No engineer would undertake, in this region of tropical rain and other climatic disturbances, to make a cheap dam to hold back one of these streamlets, which at times assume large proportions, and which will one day seriously damage the town property.

I now come to the main requisite for a healthy town in the tropics, viz., an efficient system of drainage. Drainage.

In Levuka at present the sewage is managed on the dry earth system. The closet-pans are cleared at very short intervals, and the sewage sent out to sea in a proper barge and let free. This disposal of sewage near coral reefs is objectionable, but, till lands are more cultivated or manure required, there appears to be no option.

But when the question of surface or subsoil drainage is entered on at Levuka (as I have had to do in connection with instructions from the Board of Health), a difficulty presents itself, and I confess I see no satisfactory solution of it.

This level piece of alluvial ground on which Levuka stands is only from 4 to 10 feet above high-water mark, but when you cut a ditch down to the level of high-water mark, you come on the water itself. Subterraneous water.

Therefore, to drain the ground by running off the water is an impossibility; and any other scheme to remove the subsoil water effectually would, from the expense involved, be to all intents an impossibility in this locality. Drainage.

I have already stated that the extension of the town inland by means of terracing is impracticable, except at great expense, and not advisable. Extension of town or population inland.

There is no way of extending the town along the sea shore on account of the configuration of the ground. Laterally.

There is certainly a foreshore which might be reclaimed, but every objection to such a step exists here. Reclamation.

The surface between high and low-water mark is a coralline formation, but only 2 feet thick, and with water underneath.

The stone for reclamation purposes is of the hardest conglomerate (in one case we had to give up trying to remove a stone from the expense of jumping a hole into it). Placed, as this stone would be, in prolongation of the level site of the present town, there would always be a damp foundation to houses built on reclaimed land here.

If, then, from the increased prosperity which all hope these islands will attain, it became necessary to provide for more inhabitants at the capital, to make, in fact, the population more dense, and lay out streets, &c., I must report that the absence of subsoil drainage will prove a very serious matter. Increase of houses on present site.

I do not think it possible to put a town down on this site, utilizing the full value of the town lands, without incurring great risk of epidemics. So many people in one place, and the ground like a sponge underneath their houses, must result in rendering the whole soil impure.

I have further to report that it is almost impossible to get a site in Levuka for any Government purpose. The whole of the land is in private hands; a great deal of it in the hands of the Wesleyan body, who lease their lands. Value of Land.

The price asked for good sites, or even bad ones, is simply absurd.

I have had the greatest difficulty in putting down most of the houses required for any Government purpose any where near the most desirable locality.

I may state here that from my short experience of these islands, I do not think this last difficulty as to buying sites exists anywhere except at Levuka.

Climate.

Of course, after a stay of three months only, I cannot state from personal knowledge the difference, if any, of the climate of Levuka from any other place. Planters and others who have to come here say it is hotter than most of the islands.

I attach the meteorological register for the last twenty-five days, to show that the heat here has been great.

General considerations.

I hardly know whether it lies within my instructions to report on any general grounds for making Levuka a capital or rejecting it as one, but I may state the general feeling of confinement on this island.

There is not, and never will be, any place to walk to; the hills at the back are too steep for road making; and if one must go by the shore, a boat is more convenient. As far as the troops are concerned, it is evident that, for the future, their principal work will be on the big lands (Viti Levu or Vanua Levu).

The main source of wealth will, probably, be also in these big islands.

I regret that time has not permitted me to supply a tracing of the actual survey of the town, which is completed, or to send more finished drawings and a more detailed report.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. E. PRATT, *Lieutenant-Colonel, R.E.,*
Chief Resident Engineer.

His Excellency the Governor,
Fiji.

Inclosure 2 in No. 34.

Meteorological Observations.

Levuka, Fiji, January 25, 1876.

Date.	9 A.M.							3 P.M.				
	Barometer corrected and reduced to 32° Fahrenheit.	Dry Bulb.	Wet Bulb.	Dew Point.	Elastic Force of Aqueous Vapour.	Maximum Thermometer.	Minimum Thermometer.	Barometer corrected and reduced to 32° Fahrenheit.	Dry Bulb.	Wet Bulb.	Dew Point.	Force of Aqueous Vapour.
1876												
January 1	29·678	84	78	72·0	0·776	85	75	29·625	83	76	72·5	0·787
2	29·638	86	72	65·0	0·617	86	72	29·623	85	77	73·0	0·801
3	29·612	85	79	76·0	0·882	86	73	29·571	89	81	77·0	0·910
4	29·634	85	79	76·0	0·882	89	74	29 597	89	82	78·5	0·955
5	29·661	87	82	79·5	0·986	90	75	29·636	89	83	80·0	1·001
6	29·719	86	81	78·5	0·955	90	79	29 668	89	83	80·0	1 001
7	29·719	87	82	79·5	0·986	90	78	29·683	85	81	79·0	0·970
8	29·741	85	80	77·5	0·925	87	77	29·687	89	82	78·5	0·955
9	29·752	84	80	78·0	0·940	90	77	29·703	86	82	80·0	1·001
10	29·745	77	76	75·5	0·868	90	75	29·658	78	77	76·5	0·896
11	29·415	80	77	75·5	0·868	81	75	29·533	84	79	76·5	0·896
12	29·708	85	80	77·5	0·925	86	72	29·699	85	80	77·5	0·925
13	29·773	87	82	79·5	0·986	88	74	29·736	85	80	77·5	0·925
14	29·800	87	81	78·0	0·940	88	74	29·703	86	81	78·5	0·955
15	29·749	85	80	77·5	0·925	89	75	29·685	84	78	75·0	0·854
16	29·777	86	80	77·0	0·910	88	77	29·723	82	79	77·5	0 925
17	29·803	86	79	75·5	0·868	88	72	29·747	85	78	74·5	0·840
18	29·805	86	79	75·5	0·868	89	74	29·741	88	83	80·5	1·017
19	29·775	87	80	76·5	0·896	90	76	29 669	90	82	78·0	0·940
20	29·750	87	80	76·5	0·896	91	74	29 671	89	81	77·0	0·910
21	29·786	86	80	77·0	0·910	90	73	29·724	91	81	..	..
22	29·812	88	81	77·5	0·925	92	72	29·780	91	82	..	..
23	29·859	86	80	77·0	0·910	92	76	29·797	92	82	..	..
24	29·872	85	78	74·5	0·840	92	74	29·806	91	82	..	..
25	29·828	87	82	79·5	0·986	91	76	29·768	89	83	80 0	1·001

Inclosures 3 and 4 in No. 34.

Maps.

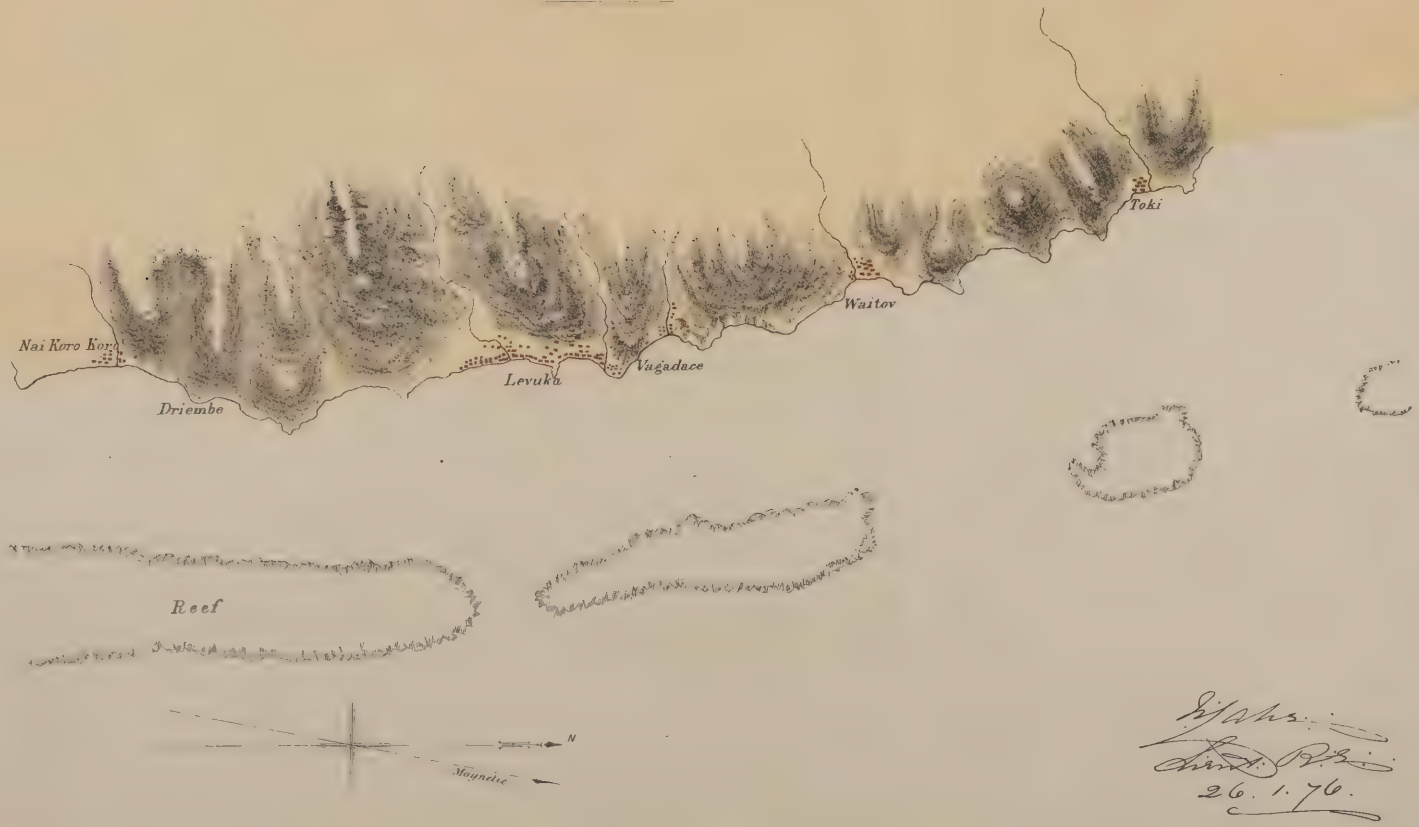
PORTION OF THE

EASTERN COAST OF OVALAU.

FIJI.

Tracing from Admiralty Chart.

Scale, about 3 inches = 1 mile.



26. 1. 76.

(1835 10/78 1531)[F 0. 658]

LEVUKA. OVALAU.

F I J I.

Scale 10′ = 1 mile.

Level ground coloured

J. G. Pratt
Lt-Col. R.E.
25/1/76. Survey a Genl.

Inspected
Lieut. R.E.
24. 1. 76.

(1625 W/8 1531 [?] 650)

Harrison & Sons, Lith. St. Martins Lane, W.C.

No. 35.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received April 18.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, January 25, 1876.*

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch of the 10th of November,* on the subject of the purchase of a vessel for the service of this Colony.

2. I will, in the first place, reply to the suggestions contained in the third paragraph of your Lordship's despatch.

3. A sailing-vessel of the character indicated would not in any manner meet the requirements of the Colonial Government. The wind here usually blows from one and the same quarter; and a voyage from west to east is as tedious and uncertain as a voyage from east to west is usually of ready accomplishment.

The late Commodore Goodenough deprecated the idea of the purchase of a schooner for the Colony quite as strongly as myself.

4. Your Lordship is aware that I greatly preferred the idea of hiring a private steamer to that of purchasing one for the exclusive use of the Government; but when I found that the most advantageous terms on which I could make such an arrangement would have involved the hire of a small and old vessel, without any decent passenger accommodation, at an annual cost of very nearly equal to that at which I could effect the purchase of a new and well-built steamer, I had no hesitation in abandoning my own preconceived idea in favour of the juster views of Sir H. Robinson.

5. I have in a previous despatch reported the circumstances under which the purchase of the "Fitzroy" was effected; and it is with some surprise, as well as with regret, that I perceive that in your Lordship's despatch now under acknowledgment it is assumed that I shall take no further step towards supplying the wants of the Colony in this respect, without a previous reference to your Lordship.

6. In Sir Hercules Robinson's scheme of expenditure for the past year a sum of 5,000*l.* is put down for the purchase of a steam-vessel for the Colony.

In commenting on this scheme of expenditure, your Lordship remarks in your despatch unnumbered of the 4th March, as follows:—

"It is not possible for me now to express an opinion on each item; but I may observe that if, as I anticipate, you find it necessary to provide that steam communication among the islands shall be at the command of the Colonial Government independently of Her Majesty's ships, it may be preferable to enter into arrangements for subsidizing a commercial steamer, and not to resort to the very costly proceeding of purchasing and owning a Colonial vessel."

That is to say, your Lordship anticipates that I shall find it necessary to provide that steam communication among the islands should be at the command of the Colonial Government independently of Her Majesty's ships, and suggests that I may find it preferable to make the necessary provision in one mode rather than in another. That I shall make it in some manner seems to be assumed; and I certainly understood a certain amount of discretionary power to be thereby entrusted to me, as to the mode in which I should secure services which were admitted to be necessary to the working of the Government.

7. I had several conversations with the late Commodore Goodenough as to the species of vessel best suited for service in these waters; and my present experience has firmly convinced me that such a vessel as is described in his letter of the 10th June (and to which description the "Fitzroy" very nearly answers), will fully meet all the requirements therein set forth; nor do I understand on what data such a vessel has been supposed inadequate for such contemplated service. A vessel of 169 tons burthen would, unless peculiarly built as to draught, be unable to cross the bar of any river in Fiji.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

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* Not printed

No. 36.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, April* 29, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 25th of January,* forwarding a copy of the Report of Lieutenant-Colonel Pratt and Dr. Macgregor on the eligibility of Suva as a site for the Capital of Fiji.

2. I observe from this Report that, in addition to the difficulty of obtaining fresh water, the shallowness of the water in both bays would seem to be a serious objection to this site.

3. My despatch of the 17th November, 1875,† has already informed you that it would be necessary to consult the War Office and Admiralty before deciding upon the choice of a capital, and I propose, as soon as I am in possession of the reports of the proper officers upon the other sites which you have indicated, to place myself in communication with those Departments on the subject.

4. I have also received your despatch of the same date,‡ forwarding the Surveyor-General's Report upon Levuka as a site for the Capital of the Colony.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 37.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, April* 29, 1876.

I HAVE received your despatches§ containing a brief account of your meeting at Na Vola with the mountain tribes of Viti Levu, the latter inclosing a copy of your address delivered on the occasion.

2. I have also had before me your further despatch of the 16th February,‖ forwarding copies of two Reports from Mr. Walter Carew, Resident Commissioner for the Province of Colo.

3. I had not failed to notice in Mr. Carew's previous reports his reference to the disturbed state of feeling which existed in the highlands, and his apprehension that troubles might be expected to arise unless action were at once taken; but I cannot but observe, with regret and some uneasiness, the much more serious tone which pervades the reports inclosed in your despatch of the 16th of February, more especially when I remark that the tribes of the interior are referred to as "rebels" and "the enemy," and that it was found impossible for an armed Police Force of 140 men to make an advance into the country, although your despatch of the 19th of January informed me that it was with the entire assent of the mountaineers that the camp of the armed constabulary had been established.

4. I have every reason to believe that Mr. Carew has acted with the same judgment and moderation which I have before noticed in his dealings with the native tribes, and in approving the steps taken on the present occasion, I can only express a hope that the firmness and energy of the measures which have been adopted may suffice to avert any outbreak.

5. Meanwhile I shall look forward with anxiety to the receipt of full information of everything which takes place in the Island, where there seems much reason to fear that considerable elements of danger exist.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

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* No. 33. † No. 33 of C. 1404 of 1876.
‡ No. 34. § Nos. 26 and 31. ‖ No. 32.

No. 38.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received May 23.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, March* 14, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for Her Majesty's gracious allowance and confirmation, an Ordinance "to Regulate the Assessment and Collection of Native Taxes."

2. A copy of the draft of this Ordinance was inclosed in my despatch of the 16th February,* in which despatch I also explained at some length the objects of the Ordinance and the motives which had led to its enactment. I will now proceed to explain in detail the clauses of the Ordinance itself,

3. The preamble recites the Resolution of the Legislative Council on which the measure is based, and the first section (a purely formal one) provides a short title for the enactment.

4. The second section directs that the Legislative Council shall annually by resolution assess the amount of the tax to be paid by the native inhabitants of each province during the following year, and is the most important clause in the Ordinance.

5. The third, fourth, fifth, and sixth sections provide for the creation of provincial Boards of Assessment, to consist of the principal white and native authority in each province, and of two Assistant Assessors to be chosen by the local native Assessors, whose election is afterwards provided for by section ten. These Boards will be presided over by an officer to be called "the Provincial Assessor," but whose jurisdiction need not be, and, as a matter of fact will not be, limited to a single province. Each Board will regulate the manner in which the contribution imposed by the Legislature is to be spread over the district, and the amount of produce which must be raised to realize it, and the seventh section makes it the duty of the Assistant Assessors to carry out the directions—as to reports, inspections, &c.—they may receive from the Provincial Assessor. The eighth section provides that all objections made by any village or district to the amount of their assessment shall be considered by the Governor in Council.

6. The ninth section gives authority to the Governor to divide the provinces of the Colony into districts and wards for the purposes of this Ordinance. The tenth section provides for the election by the native inhabitants of a local Assessor in each district.

7. The eleventh section empowers the Governor in Council to make regulations for carrying out the details of the Ordinance, which may be enforced by fine not exceeding 2*l.*, or imprisonment not exceeding twenty-one days; and the twelfth provides that all such regulations shall be laid before the Legislative Council at its next subsequent meeting; whilst the thirteenth provides that any fine or imprisonment incurred for breach of such regulations may be commuted for one day's labour for every shilling of fine, or two days' labour for every day of imprisonment.

8. The fifteenth section, in order to meet the effect of unforeseen calamities, such as hurricanes, floods, or drought, authorizes the Governor to remit any part of the assessment made on any province.

9. Finally, as the year 1876 had already commenced when the Ordinance was passed, the sixteenth section enacts that the assessment contained in the Resolution of the Legislative Council of 31st December, 1875, shall be the assessment for the current year.

10. In my despatch of the 16th February,† I observed that I might very possibly omit to use arguments, my familiarity with which made them appear too obvious to require mention, and on re-reading that despatch I perceive that this has been the case in at least one instance, and that I have neglected to point out the strong objection to the money poll-tax, founded on the fact that its practical effect on the natives was not only not to stimulate production, but, if I may make use of such a term in such a connection, to exhaust their capital.

11. The Fijians, though eminently an agricultural, are not a producing people, so far as regards any articles, except those used for their own consumption. In the days before European influence was brought to bear upon them, they worked in community, either to supply the wants of the tribe (and to neglect them meant

* No. 30. † No. 30.

famine), or by the orders of their chiefs, whose commands were enforced with the club. But their ideas of work are almost entirely of collective work, and to satisfy a demand made upon him individually by a money tax, a native will sell anything he may have in his possession, such as carved weapons and bowls, as curiosities to a white man, or he will strive to collect the produce nature has already provided, such as cocoanuts, pearl shell, and *bêche de mer*. To plant a grove of cocoanuts from which no return could be expected for some years, or to cultivate any plant (except those the produce of which they themselves use) with a view to selling it for money, does not enter into a Fijian's mind, neither, indeed, would it meet the immediate object of supplying him with the means of defraying his taxes for the current year.

12. That the natives are really skilful gardeners and workmen there is no doubt, as is attested by the extensive and cleverly laid out and irrigated taro beds to be seen along the course of every rivulet, and the remains of much larger works of the same description, deserted on account of decrease in population, bear witness to their skill and industry in the days when the power of their chiefs was far greater than it is now.

But were the money poll-tax renewed and enforced, I have no doubt that in a few years' time the capital, if one may so call it, that nature has provided, or the forethought of the old chiefs has left them, will be exhausted. The cocoanut trees will gradually disappear, and the over-fished reefs will fail to yield more pearl shell oysters or *bêche de mer*.

The people, with nothing left with which to satisfy the demands of the tax-gather, will take refuge in the woods (as they did in former days when suffering from famine, or driven there by the misfortunes of war), where they would probably become at least as great a source of annoyance and trouble to Government as the negro squatter in the West Indies, if not a source of far greater danger, or they would crowd Government prisons as defaulters to the tax, and it would be impossible to find public works on which to employ them.

Some, it is true, would go to the plantations of white men to work, but there is not room for the employment there of the whole population, nor, however desirable it may be to encourage such labour, is it at all desirable to promote it to such an extent as to involve, as in such a case it would, the complete destruction of the race, all hopes of preserving which must be given up if the people are to be severed from all ties of kindred and home, and are to see all their village system and tribal organization broken up.

13. I must now turn to the Report of the Attorney-General on this Ordinance, which I have also the honour to inclose, and which is one of the strangest documents of this description which has ever come under my observation.

It cannot properly be described as a Report upon this Ordinance, for it contains no analysis of its provisions, or statement of the effect of its different clauses, almost the whole of the paper being devoted, not to any examination of the provisions of the laws or even a discussion of its political expediency, but to comments on a single sentence in the speech made by the Auditor-General when moving the first reading of the Ordinance, the sole statement made by the Attorney-General with regard to the provisions of the Ordinance itself being one which I can only characterize as utterly incorrect. To this statement I will address myself before I proceed to deal with the general argument of the Report itself.

14. The Attorney-General commences his Report with the startling announcement that "the principal legal effect of this Ordinance is to enable his Excellency the Governor from time to time to make certain regulations for imposing and levying native taxes." But this is not the fact. No clause of the Ordinance grants any such power. On the contrary, the second section of the Ordinance carefully reserves to the Legislative Council, and to the Legislative Council alone, the right and duty of imposing native taxes.

The eleventh section of the Ordinance is, I presume, that to which the Attorney-General alludes.

But this only gives power, no unusual one, to the Governor in Council to make regulation, not for "imposing and levying taxes," but for carrying out the details of the Ordinance.

It is perfectly clear, on the most superficial perusal of the Ordinance, that no tax can be "imposed" except by the authority of the Legislative Council, or "levied" in any other manner than that prescribed by the Ordinance itself.

15. One phrase in the preamble to the Ordinance is also noticed by the Attorney-General. It is that which refers to the meeting of Chiefs at Draiba, to any mention of which he objects, on the grounds that the Chiefs there assembled were "barbarous;" that their approbation of the new scheme of taxation was "qualified," and that it was dictated by selfish motives.

M. de Ricci is quite mistaken in supposing that the new arrangement is one likely to be specially advantageous to the Chiefs. On the contrary, whilst the former system was one which afforded them ample opportunity of favouring their own friends, of making illegal exactions from those they disliked, and of retaining in their own hands, without risk of detection, moneys due to the Government, such opportunities are, under present arrangements, altogether wanting.

M. de Ricci is equally mistaken in supposing that the approval of this scheme (an emphatic and not a "qualified" one), was simply the expression of selfish preference on the part of the Chiefs.

In the first place, it is remarkable how even indifferent Chiefs feel themselves bound on public occasions to think and speak for their people; and secondly, that, though the meeting was popularly called one of Chiefs, the presence of magistrates and scribes made it very thoroughly representative. The mode in which the largest amount of taxation could be raised from the native population with the least difficulty and harshness was one of the points for the consideration of which the meeting had been called, and I cannot think that the assent and approval of those about to be taxed a matter of indifference, or a fact unworthy to be mentioned; nor do I altogether assent to the Attorney-General's use of the word "barbarous." That Fijians are as yet very imperfectly civilized is no doubt true, but when the great advance made by them during the last twenty years is considered, the term employed is, I think, too harsh. Between the educated, orderly, Christianized natives of the coast provinces and the wild highlanders of the interior there is well nigh as great a difference as between the coast Fijians and ourselves. I myself place them on much the same level as the Hovas of Madagascar, whom, in many respects, they very strongly resemble, and who have certainly shown no want of aptitude for civilization.

16. I now turn to the general argument of the Attorney-General's Report, which is based chiefly on a single sentence of Mr. Thurston's speech, to which I have referred, and deals less with provisions really contained in the Act than with the legal effect of others that he believes that it is intended to insert in it, though when or how he omits to state.

17. The Attorney-General argues that the system to be introduced by this Ordinance is virtually a system of slavery, and considers it to be so because the tax-payer is allowed no option as to the mode in which his tax is to be paid. He says: "Practically, between the one and the other" (*i.e.*, between slavery and the system to be established under this Ordinance) "no moral difference exists, for it will be observed that under such conditions the individual native is afforded no option as to the manner in which his taxes shall be paid." But what tax-payer is afforded the option of paying his taxes in such manner as pleases him?

The Englishman is made (there is no option in the matter) to pay his taxes in money, for the simple reason that it is the most convenient plan, the progressive though slow advance of civilization having occasioned the overthrow of the older systems suited to a rude or semi-civilized society, a money-tax has been substituted for personal service or payment in kind.

18. The Auditor-General's words as printed were:—"But the only interference here is that we propose to make a man work to pay a certain article of commerce—kidney cotton, for instance—whether he likes it or not, certainly. But this Bill does not contemplate interfering with what he (the native) does with the remainder of his crop. He may sell it to whomsoever he pleases."

What difference in principle would have been involved had the words run thus:—"But the only interference is that we propose to make a man pay a certain number of coins—shillings, for instance—whether he likes it or not, certainly; but this Bill does not contemplate interfering with what he does with the remainder of his earnings or capital."

The fact, however, seems to be that the Attorney-General is disposed to see a special magic in money that he cannot see in money's worth. He is opposed to what I may term first principles in dealing with the native race. It would, in his opinion, be just and lawful to impose a tax on every native in the Colony, and in default of payment to imprison or otherwise punish him.

To procure money in order to pay his tax the native must sell produce of some sort, he must sell it at a sacrifice; he may have infinite vexation and difficulty in conveying his goods to market, and in finding a purchaser, but still the Attorney-General would have him pay in money; "he is," to use his own words, "to have no option." Money or the treadmill. To accept produce, or to order taxes to be paid in produce so as to spare the native much vexation and trouble, to take no more out of his hands for taxes than will find its way into the Treasury, is to do him a wrong; to help him to raise his crops is to create "Government plantations;" and to teach him an intelligent system of agriculture is to initiate a system of slavery.

19. The charge of being an abettor in the introduction of a system of slavery is one at which I can afford to smile. Whatever my errors, my official career during the last ten years affords, at all events, ample proof that my disposition has been rather to be too keenly sensitive to the possibilities of oppression than to show any indulgence towards those who were disposed to exact involuntary servitude from their fellow men.

Were it worth while I could easily show that the money-tax system, as worked here two or three years ago, really did introduce a form of slavery, and that, although it might now be more carefully supervised, its tendency here would always be in this direction. The Attorney-General (who has evidently never read Sir James Stephen's masterly exposition of the difference between them), appears to confound all compulsory labour with slavery. How is it, then, that the law lately in force requiring twenty-one days' labour from every male Fijian does not come under his ban? I am at a loss to understand.

20. When the Attorney-General says that the Fijian is not told "You, in common with all other British subjects, are liable for certain purposes to taxation, you are taxed accordingly at a certain sum which must, in such manner as may be hereafter prescribed, be paid in good and lawful money of Great Britain, or its equivalent after a fixed tariff to be agreed upon, or at the upset market price, or in default thereof you shall be liable to compulsory labour on the public works of the Colony, or on Government plantations to be established for that purpose," I presume he means that this is what he ought to be told. But what benefit can come of telling a native anything about "good and lawful money of Great Britain," who can be induced (as on the visit of the "Cossack" and "Gazelle" to Matuku) to accept a 1*d.* in preference to a 1*s.*, because it is larger? Why, indeed, talk about "good and lawful money of Great Britain," when our own white countrymen and women here are living on maziena and yams, and are so poor that the Colonial Government has to pay off and return their labourers to their homes. The necessity of the day is to produce something without which no "good and lawful money of Great Britain," or any other country, will gravitate in this direction.

21. The Attorney-General does not say that the tax imposed is too high, that it can be increased or diminished at the pleasure of the collectors, that it obstructs the progress of the natives or of the Colony at large, nor any other reasonable objection, but he avers that the natives to all intents and purposes are told "you shall have no option as to the manner in which your taxes are paid, whether you like it or not you must work on our Government plantations, or in default you shall be fined or imprisoned."

22. Why the Attorney-General should have introduced the term "Government plantations" into his report I know not. He is not unaware that these plantations are solely and absolutely the property of the natives. Certain persons who desire to monopolize the time and labour of the Fijians attempted unsuccessfully to fasten the term "Government plantations" upon them, because the term seemed suggestive; but the Attorney-General must know better. I again say that there are no Government plantations, and that such plantations have no existence except in the imagination of the Attorney-General and of the Levuka gossips, from whom the learned gentleman appears, in this instance, to have drawn his inspiration.

23. That it is intended that natives shall pay their taxes in the manner prescribed, "whether they like it or not," is undoubtedly true; but at the same time I beg leave to say most emphatically that there can be no question as to the very decided preference of the natives for the mode of taxation introduced by this Ordinance.

24. "Native district plantations," in the provinces of Tai Levu, Rewa, and Naitasiri, have been made by the people since the 1st of January last, under the direction and advice of one person. The native population of these provinces is

between 30,000 and 40,000. If the natives had not liked the plan it would have been simply impossible to make them carry it into effect with so very little assistance. What I here say in respect to these provinces is strictly applicable to the whole of the Colony. Had there been time to have them copied, I would have inclosed some very interesting reports on this subject.

25. As to giving the natives an option, in addition to all other reasons against it, I may say that such a course would, as things are, be quite unworkable. The natives would simply sit still and do nothing, Bau would wait to see what Rewa did, and Rewa would wait to see what Kadavu did, and so on. Again, in matters of this sort, there is nothing that a native so much dislikes as to be told to please himself. This may seem strange to one who, like the Attorney-General, has never been beyond Levuka, is unacquainted with a word of the native language, has never had any confidential or free intercourse with a single native, but it is true, and it is an instance of the difficulties any gentleman is likely to experience who legislates for a people of whose habits and modes of thought he is unacquainted.

It is better, therefore, to avoid both the right of "option" and the adoption of a mixed system. Produce every native can raise, money he cannot. No practical good can come from ordering the people to pay "in good and lawful money of Great Britain," or in its good and marketable equivalent, when it is a matter of public (and unfortunate) notoriety that they have neither the one nor the other, and that to gain the first they must raise the second. Technically it might be expedient to use this language, as the words have something of a statutory jingle about them, but I see no other reason for so doing.

26. That the plan adopted is by no means a perfect one I am painfully aware. Practically it is not possible to attain to anything like perfection in a matter of taxation, any more than in any other department of politics. It is only a choice of difficulties, and what is even absolutely right has often to give way to what is expedient and practicable. It is the business of the Legislature to look to the practical results and influences of different taxes or modes of taxation, and to resort in preference to those by which the revenue may be raised with the smallest inconvenience. But in this, as in every similar matter, the welfare of the people should be the prime consideration, and that mode which is the best fitted to promote this is the one to be preferred,

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON

Inclosure 1 in No. 38.

Statement on Ordinance No. 4, 1876.—"*An Ordinance to regulate the Assessment and Collection of Native Taxes.*"

THE principal *legal* effect of this Ordinance is to enable his Excellency the Governor, from time to time, to make certain regulations for imposing and levying native taxes, which shall, prior to being laid before the Legislative Council, have the force and effect of law.

As there may be some doubt, however, as to the nature of such proposed Regulations, it will be convenient here to quote the following extract taken from an official statement made by the Auditor-General in Legislative Council on the first reading of this Ordinance, referring to an objection made that this measure is an interference with the liberty of the subject, the honourable member said :—

"But the only interference is, that we propose to make a man work to pay a certain quantity of some article of commerce—kidney cotton, for instance—whether he likes or not, certainly, but this Bill does not contemplate interfering with what he does with the remainder of his crop."

If, then, it may be assumed, from the tenor of the above quotation, that the effect of any one of these proposed Regulations might be such as to permit that a British subject may be made to work, "*whether he likes or not,*" or, in other words, that a man may be compelled, contrary to his own free will, to labour on those plantations which the Government proposes establishing, "for the purpose of

enabling the natives to provide the means of paying their taxes" in kind, it appears to me this enactment would but in effect be sanctioning a system so nearly approaching that of slavery that (saving the life of the Fijian is not subject to the absolute and uncontrolled power of his master), practically, between the one and the other, no moral difference exists, for it will be observed that under such conditions the *individual native* is afforded no option as to the manner in which his taxes shall be paid; he is not told "you, in common with all other British subjects, are liable for certain purposes to taxation, you are taxed accordingly at a certain sum, which must, in such manner as may be hereafter prescribed, be satisfied in good and lawful money of Great Britain, or its equivalent, after a fixed tariff to be agreed upon, or at the upset market price, or in default thereof you shall be liable to compulsory labour on the public works of the Colony, or on Government plantations to be established for that purpose."

But, on the contrary, he would, to all intents and purposes, be told "you shall not exercise any free will or option as to the manner in which your taxes shall be paid, whether you '*like or not*,' you must work on our Government plantations, or in default you shall be fined or imprisoned."

Moreover, the circumstance referred to in the preamble of this Ordinance of certain barbarous Chiefs (narrowly regarding their own interests only), having given a qualified approval of a mode of taxation from the incidents of which they are themselves exempt, cannot surely be adduced as an argument in favour of such taxation, if in point of fact it be indeed undesirable, illegal, or opposed to sound policy, or should it amount *pro tanto* to a sacrifice of the rights of the community.

Nor do I apprehend that the foregoing objections touching the fortune and the liberty of the subject can be equitably overcome by the Government inserting, as is I believe intended, that a superfluous quantity of produce shall be raised by such compulsory labour in order that, by returning to the producer those results of his forced toil not required for the payment of taxes, the concluding words of the quotation before referred to may be verified, viz.. "this Bill does not contemplate interfering with what he does with the remainder of his crop." I am convinced that this can at best be but regarded as a technical expedient which, *pro salute populi*, still less in the interest of the Government, cannot be safely resorted to or relied on.

But, on the other hand, if these proposed Regulations have no such object as has been suggested, are free from those objections I have endeavoured briefly to point out, and are not likely I presume to be otherwise opposed to law, then from a legal point of view only I am of opinion the Royal Assent may properly be given to this Ordinance.

(Signed) J. H. DE RICCI, *Attorney-General.*

Attorney-General's Office, Levuka, March 7, 1876.

Inclosure 2 in No. 38.

No. 4, 1876.

An Ordinance (enacted by the Governor of the Colony of Fiji, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof) to regulate the Assessment and Collection of Native Taxes

(L.S.) Arthur Gordon. February 17, 1876.

WHEREAS by a Notification contained in the Fiji Government "Gazette," No. 2, of Tuesday, 13th October, 1874, it was directed that every male Fijian between the ages of 16 and 60, excepting those specially exempted, should be taxed or assessed in personal service at the rate of twenty days in each year.

And whereas such Notification was continued in force by an Ordinance passed in Council on the 1st day of September last past, entitled "An Ordinance to continue temporarily certain Laws, Ordinances, Proclamations, and Regulations adopted, enacted, or made prior to the Proclamation of the Royal Charter, under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, erecting the Fiji Islands into a separate British Colony."

And whereas at a Council of native Chiefs, holden at Draiba in the month of September last, it was recommended to his Excellency the Governor that the substitution of a tax in kind for that in labour would be expedient as being more in accordance with native customs, as well as productive of a larger amount of revenue. Preamble.

And whereas the Legislative Council did by Resolution on the 31st day of December last past, revoke and repeal the aforesaid Notification of the 13th of October, 1874.

And whereas it is expedient to make other provisions in lieu thereof.

And whereas the Legislative Council did, on the 31st day of December last past, determine that the amount of native taxes to be paid by each province or district should be assessed annually by Resolution by the Legislative Council, and further that such taxes shall be paid out of the proceeds of the sale of native produce, to be raised at such time and in such manner as might subsequently be prescribed by law.

Be it, therefore, enacted by his Excellency the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council, as follows :—

I. This Ordinance may be cited for all purposes as the Native Taxes Ordinance of 1876. Short Title.

II. The Legislative Council shall annually, and before the close of the month of November in each year, by Resolution, assess the amount of tax to be paid by each province of the Colony during the ensuing year. Tax to be assessed annually.

III. There shall be in each province a Board of Assessment, consisting of some fit and proper person to be appointed by the Governor, who shall be styled the Provincial Assessor, the Roko Tui of the province, the Stipendiary Magistrate of the district, and two persons who shall be styled Assistant Assessors, elected by the native Local Assessors hereinafter mentioned. Local Boards of assessment.

IV. It shall be lawful for the Governor, if he think fit, to appoint the same person to be Provincial Assessor in more than one province. Provincial assessor may act in more than one province.

V. The Assistant Assessors shall be under the direction and control of the Provincial Assessor, and shall obey all lawful commands given by him. Assistant assessors.

VI. Such Board shall assess the amount and description of produce, the sale which at prices to be fixed by public tender will realise the sum at which the province has been assessed by the Legislative Council. Duty of local boards.

VII. Such produce shall be raised or collected in such manner and at such places in the respective provinces as the said Board, with the approval of the Governor, may from time to time appoint and direct, due regard being had to the local circumstances of such provinces. Manner of raising or collecting taxes so assessed.

VIII. Every objection made to such assessment or direction, whether made by any member of a Provincial Board of Assessment, or the inhabitants of any province, district, or ward village assessed, shall be considered and determined by the Governor in Council so soon as may be after being informed thereof. Objections, how considered.

IX. It shall be lawful for the Governor, for the purposes of this Ordinance, by Proclamation under his hand, to divide the different provinces of the Colony into districts and wards and such divisions by any subsequent Proclamation under his hand to amend or alter. Governor may subdivide the province.

X. There shall be in every such district one or more Local Assessors as the Governor may direct to be elected by the native population of such district. Natives may elect local assessors.

XI. The Governor in Council may from time to time make Regulations for the carrying out of this Ordinance, which Regulations when published in the "Royal Gazette" shall have the same force and effect as if they had formed part of this Ordinance, and may be enforced by penalties of fine and imprisonment, to be recovered in a summary manner before any Stipendiary Magistrate. Provided that no such fine shall exceed 2*l.*, and no such imprisonment shall exceed twenty-one days. Regulations, manner of making. Proviso.

XII. All such Regulations shall be laid before the Legislative Council at its next subsequent meeting to their adoption. Regulations to be laid before the Council.

XIII. When any fine or imprisonment is imposed or made under the Regulations hereinbefore mentioned, it may, if the Governor shall so order, be commuted for labour at the rate of one day's labour for every 1*s.* of fine, or two day's labour for every day of imprisonment. Commutation of fine or imprisonment.

XV. It shall be lawful for the Governor to remit the whole or any part of the assessment made in any year. Tax may be remitted.

XVI. The assessment for the present year 1876 shall be that contained in the Assessed tax for 1876.

Resolution of the Legislative Council of the 31st day of December last past, and set forth in the Schedule hereunto annexed.

Passed in Council this 10th day of February, in the year of our Lord 1876.

SCHEDULE.

	£	s.	d.
Lau	1,500	0	0
Cakaudrovi	2,000	0	0
Macuata	2,000	0	0
Bua	1,500	0	0
Lomai Viti	1,500	0	0
Tai Levu	3,000	0	0
Natasiri..	750	0	0
Rewa	4,000	0	0
Kadavu	2,000	0	0
Nadroga..	1,500	0	0
Ba and Yasawas	1,000	0	0
Ra	750	0	0
Namosi	500	0	0

No. 39.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(*Received May* 23.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, March* 27, 1876.

THE inclosed correspondence with regard to the purchase of the steamer "Fitzroy," was copied and put aside for transmission to your Lordship some time ago, but appears until now to have been overlooked.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 39.

Sir, *Colonial Secretary's Office, Levuka, September* 23, 1875.

WITH reference to the offer made by you on the part of Mr. Manning, of Sydney, for the sale of the steamer "Fitzroy" to the Colonial Government, I am directed by his Excellency the Governor to inform you that he is prepared to authorize the purchase of the steamer for the price mentioned, viz., 6,000*l.*, on the following conditions:—

1. That the vessel, her engines, fittings, &c., be examined and approved by a Board of Survey, consisting of the Superintendent of the Mercantile Marine, and such other person or persons as may be approved by his Excellency the Governor of New South Wales.

2. That the vessel, engines, fittings, &c., be placed in repair, and completed in accordance with the lists handed by you to his Excellency.

3. That the cost of the passage of the vessel from Sydney to Levuka be borne by Mr. Manning; also the return passages to Sydney of the master sent in charge and of the crew, in the event of their services not being retained by the Colonial Government.

4. That the vessel be delivered in good order at Levuka before the 30th day of November, 1875.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. E. HAVELOCK, *Colonial Secretary.*

Carl L. Sahl, Esq.,
Levuka.

Inclosure 2 in No. 39.

Sir, *Levuka, September* 24, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your two letters of yesterday.

In the former you inform me that his Excellency the Governor is prepared to authorize the purchase of the steamer "Fitzroy," for the sum of 6,000*l.*, on certain conditions.

In connection with this matter I beg to request that I may be furnished with a copy of the inventory, which I handed to his Excellency the Governor, in case a copy of it should not be in Sydney.

In your letter you request me, in case the purchase of the "Fitzroy" steamer is concluded, to ship a full cargo of steamer coal, for the use of the Colonial Government.

Your instructions shall have my immediate attention on my arrival in Sydney.

In case you wish to have the steamer insured after she is handed over to the Colonial Government, I shall be glad to receive your instructions.

I have, &c.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Levuka. (Signed) CARL L. SAHL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 39.

Official No. of Ship, 71,832. Name of Ship, "Fitzroy."

Port No. and year of Registry	36 of 1875.
Port of Registry	Sydney.
British or foreign built	British.
How propelled	Screw.
Where built	Sydney.
When built	1874.
No. of decks	One.
No. of masts	Two.
Rigged	Fore-and-aft schooner.
Stern	Elliptic.
Build	Carvel.
Galleries	None.
Head	Billet.
Framework	Wood.

	Feet.
Length from fore-part of stem, under bowsprit, to aft-side of head of stern-post	95·6
Main breadth to the outside of plank	17·5
Depth in hold from tonnage-deck to ceiling, midships	—
Depth in hold from upper deck to ceiling, in the case of three decks and upwards	8·2
Length of engine-room (if any)	20

Particulars of Engines (if any).

No. of Engines.	Description.	Whether British or Foreign made.	When made.	Name and Address of Makers.	Diameter of Cylinders.	Length of Stroke.	No. of Horses' Power combined.
					Inches.	Inches.	
3	High pressure, surface condensing	British	1875	P. H. Russell and Co., Sydney	12 12 9	20 20 10	40

Gross Tonnage.	No. of Tons.
Under tonnage-deck	83·46
Closed-in spaces, &c.	—
Poop	—
Forecastle	—
Round-house, aft	44·19
Other closed-in spaces	—
Gross tonnage	127·65
Deductions as per contra	40·85
Registered tonnage	86·80

Deductions allowed.	No. of Tons.
On account of space, propelling power ..	40·85
On account of spaces occupied by seamen, &c.	—
Total deductions	40·85

Inclosure 4 in No. 39.

Sir, *Sydney, October* 13, 1875.

REFERRING to my letter of yesterday with reference to the steamer "Fitzroy," I beg to inform you that I have just received a telegram from Mr. Manning, to the effect that he accepts the offer for the steamer, and that she leaves Brisbane for this port to-day, to be put in thorough good condition; and that the steamer will leave for Levuka directly she is passed by the Board of Examiners on behalf of the Fiji Government.

I hope to report, by "Egmont," as to the time when the steamer will leave Sydney.

I have, &c.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Fiji. (Signed) CARL L. SAHL.

No. 40.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(*Received May* 23.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, March* 27, 1876.

THE Fiji Government "Gazette," of the 10th February, 1875, issued by direction of Sir Hercules Robinson, contains a notification to the effect, "that in all cases in which default has, or shall have been made by employers, in payment of wages due to Polynesian labourers, or of passage money for their return to the islands, and in which cases payments have, or shall have been, made by Her Majesty's Government, all sums so paid by the Government shall be a first charge upon the lands in respect to which the services of such labourers have been rendered."

2. Of this notification your Lordship has, in your despatch to me (unnumbered) of the 4th March, 1875, expressed entire approval.

3. A somewhat difficult question has, however, arisen with respect to the interpretation of this notification. Its words are, that "all sums so paid by the Government shall be a first charge upon the lands in respect to which the services of such labourers have been rendered."

4. But in some cases these sums have been disbursed in payment of labour employed by persons only holding a lease of the lands on which the labour has been engaged, and which, perhaps, form a part only of the lessor's estate.

Of course these persons are themselves personally liable in the first instance for their debt to the Government; but supposing, as is usually the case, that they have nothing with which to satisfy such claims, is, or is not, the land to be held responsible for them? And, if it is, should that responsibility extend to the whole of the proprietor's estate, or only to that portion of it which may have been leased to the actual employer of the labour?

There is something to be said on both sides.

5. It may, of course be argued, with some force, that it is hard to make the proprietor responsible for the debts of the lessee; that having already, perhaps, suffered from having a bad tenant, who has neglected the property and paid him no rent, he should be yet further exposed to the possible loss of the land itself on account of that tenant's default.

6. On the other hand, it may be argued, not only that the proprietor benefits by the improvement of the land effected by the labour employed on it by the tenant, but that if it be admitted that sums advanced by Government are not to be considered a first charge upon the lands when advanced in payment of labourers by a lessee, it will be possible to avoid all liability on this score, by, in all cases, providing a nominal tenant by whom the labour should be ostensibly engaged.

7. This last consideration has great weight with me, and, on the whole, I am disposed to consider that the lands should be bound, whenever the labourers employed on it are paid off by the Government, whethey they have been employed by the proprietor or by a leaseholder; but that, in the latter case, only so much of the lands as have been so leased should be held liable.

8. I have, however, promised to submit the question to your Lordship for decision, and I now inclose copies of a correspondence which has passed between Mr. McConnell of Taviuni and myself on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 40.

Sir, *Ardmore, Vuna Point, December* 18, 1875.

I DO myself the honour of bringing under the notice of the Governor that several planters on this island, and, I believe, many more in the Colony, a few years ago made over their landed property by gift to their wives, at a time when their creditors could not, as now, obtain legal protection, without great risk and expense.

These parties are now applying to the Lands Commissioner for Crown grants on behalf of their wives, which, if granted free, will be prejudicial to their creditors, and I hope that his Excellency can adopt some measure that will prevent such a fraud.

2. On the 9th December, 1872, a Mr. John Prender leased from me eighty acres of land, a portion of my Ardmore property, for the term of eight years from the 1st day of May, 1872, at the yearly net rental of 20*l.* sterling, payable half-yearly, with other considerations. There are now over due three half-years' rent; therefore, having broken the lease, in accordance with one of its clauses, I can enter into possession or eject him by process of law.

3. On proving my title to this property a few days ago before the Lands Commissioners at Wairiki, they informed me that a claim for wages due to certain Polynesians employed as labourers by the said tenant, Mr. John Prender, was entered as a charge against the property, and I understood them to say that no certificate of title could be entertained or granted until these wages were paid.

Being anxious in securing, if practicable, a property by obtaining a Crown Grant, upon which I have invested a large capital, will you kindly inform me if such is the Government's decision, "that the landlord's property, and interest thereof, shall be held responsible for the tenant's liabilities in respect to his labourers' wages."

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAMES McCONNELL.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
Levuka.

Inclosure 2 in No. 40.

Sir, *Colonial Secretary's Office. Levuka, January 7,* 1876.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 18th of December, 1875.

2. In reply to the inquiry contained in the first paragraph of your letter, I am directed by the Governor to inform you that, until the Lands Commissioners have reported, he is unable to give you a definite answer; but his Excellency feels confident that the Commissioners will in no manner sanction anything tending to encourage fraud.

3. With reference to the second question contained in your letter, I am directed to forward to you a copy of a notification published by order of Sir Hercules Robinson in "Government Gazette," No. 15, February 10, 1875, bearing on the subject, and also an extract from the Secretary of State's despatch dated 4th March, 1875, by which you will perceive that the Lands Commissioners had ample authority for the information they gave you on the subject at Wairiki.

His Excellency desires me to add, that it appears to him that, possibly, the case of lessees was not distinctly contemplated by the framers of the above-mentioned document.

On the one hand, it may be contended with some plausibility in such a case as that mentioned by you, that the lands have been improved in value by the labour expended on them, and, consequently, that the owner is fairly liable for the expenses of such improvement in the event of the tenant being unable to pay them; on the other hand, it may be maintained that the lessor is in no way responsible for the default of the lessee.

4. His Excellency directs me to inform you that he does not consider himself empowered to decide on this matter himself.

He will submit the question to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. E. HAVELOCK, *Colonial Secretary.*

James McConnell, Esq.,
Ardmore.

No. 41.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received May 23.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, April* 8, 1876.

IN continuation of my despatch of the 16th February,* I have the honour to inclose the two last Reports received from Mr. Carew, from which your Lordship will perceive that everything is proceeding satisfactorily in the Highland district.

2. I have no official communication from Mr. Carew of later than that now inclosed, but a private letter from him, of the 22nd ultimo, has reached me, of which I also inclose an extract.

3. Mr. Carew continues fully to justify the very high opinion I have formed of his tact, judgment, and special suitability for the work entrusted to him.

4. The accompanying photograph of the village and camp of Nasaucoko may, I think, interest your Lordship. It is from a drawing taken by my Private Secretary, Mr. A. Gordon, on a recent visit to Mr. Carew. Until the arrival of the police force at Nasaucoko in January last, it had, I believe, never been visited by a white man.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 41.

Sir, *Nasaucoko, Colo, February* 16, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward the following account of events since my last despatch, dated February 7, 1876.

* No. 32.

Immediately after the arrival at our camp of Koliköli, Chief of Beimana, to inform us of his intention to be loyal to the Government, I had a visit from Nabiri, the Chief of Matanabilalevu, on the Wainavau creek, on and near which are situated several villages, whose people I believed to be faithful to their professions of loyalty made at Navuso last year.

He came by a circuitous route to inform me that they all intended to remain faithful to the Government, and, after a long conversation, I dismissed him with a small present for himself and for the Chief of Vunatawa.

During his absence from home on his visit to me, the people of Nasue, a small village allied to Naqaqa, went to Matanabilalevu and forcibly took away two women, and did other damage by way of punishing him for coming to see me, and for showing fidelity to the Government.

These women are, I believe, still detained by the Nasue people.

Last night messengers I had sent fourteen days ago to Nadrau with letters and messages for Wai-ni-mala tribes returned into camp, bringing with them a Chief of Nadrau, and letters and messages from the Chiefs of Wai-ni-mala, conveying the strongest assurances of their intention to remain true to the Government, and to obey any orders they may receive.

The native ordained Minister of that district also writes privately, in answer to a note from me, to say that he has watched the behaviour of the Chiefs of his district most carefully, and he is most thoroughly convinced of their loyal intentions.

I have also heard that the Naqaqa and other malcontents had been to Nabuto, on the head of the Wainavau creek, and commanding the passage of the road to the Wai-ni-mala, taking "tabuas," and to ask that "if they (the Naqaqa and others), after holding out against the Government, should at last prove too weak, would they, the Nabuto people, give them their sympathy and assistance, and open the way for them (the Naqaqa people) to run to the Wai-ni-mala for protection and assistance?"

They were informed that they would receive no assistance from those tribes, but would be arrested and handed over to me if they rebelled against the Government and went to Wai-ni-mala territory.

Although I have all along expressed my firm belief in the loyalty of these tribes, yet I confess this intelligence has given me the very greatest satisfaction.

The Nabutautau people also are on bad terms with Naqaqa, and again these latter, having several Chiefs of about equal rank and influence, are much divided in Council, and I hope, after a further short delay, to be able to bring them to reason, as they have not as yet, so far as I can discover, committed any crime.

A number of Magodro refugees, and the men who committed murder at Vatubau, near Ba, about July last, are living at Naqaqa, and fearing punishment for this and other crimes, they are exerting themselves strongly to stir up rebellion; trusting that during the period of strife and activity that would probably ensue they and their misdeeds would be entirely lost sight of.

I have heard nothing from Beimana and the tribes below since writing my last despatch, except that they "thought they would do a little planting," but I consider it necessary to keep a strict guard against an attempt to surprise our camp as the profound silence prevailing now may be intended to throw us off our guard.

I have heard from Buli Serua, who has been protecting the Bucknells at Koroleon, at my request, from the time of our arrival inland, that the Bucknells, becoming afraid to stay any longer, had deserted their plantation and gone to Nagroda. I have since received a note from that gentleman, written from Nadroga, to say that he had left his plantation on account of rumours brought him by natives, but that, judging difficulty from the tone of a note he had received from me, he intended to return almost immediately.

Taking into consideration that his family consists of small children and three ladies, I have felt constrained to ask him to weigh well the prudence or otherwise of his intention to take his family to a disturbed district, after having had them removed to a place of perfect security.

I have, in conclusion, the honour to inform you that Captain Knollys, A.D.C., and Mr. Gordon, with twenty men and a quantity of Government stores, arrived here on the night of the 12th instant.

Roko Tui Ba is deserving of credit by reason of his very efficient aid, which

procured the delivery of the stores here in very bad weather with but trifling damage.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WALTER S. CAREW,

Resident Commissioner for Colo.

The Hon. A. E. Havelock,
Colonial Secretary.

Inclosure 2 in No. 41.

Sir, *Nasaucoko, Colo, March* 10, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward the following condensed report of events since writing my despatch of 16th February:—

After writing the above, a period of several days elapsed without my hearing from Beimana, the short distance intervening between our camp and that village being occupied by a band of malcontents from Rawailevu, a district below Beimana, and all my efforts to procure a messenger proved ineffectual.

On the 24th February, a Serua Chief arrived from the coast, viâ Beimana, accompanied by the brother of Koli Koli, Chief of that village, who brought fresh assurances of their loyalty and the total untruth of a report which had been most extensively circulated that they intended to entrap us under the guise of bringing a supply of food.

After a very satisfactory conversation, during which I explained the intentions of the Government with reference to native politics, and assured them that we had come inland entirely with a view of protecting them from those who bore ill-will to them, and we, moreover, had no intention whatever of entering upon a war, I requested the messenger to tell Koli Koli of Beimana that I gave over to him the task of procuring a meeting of the dissatisfied tribes, and afterwards to endeavour to induce them to visit me and hear from my own mouth an explanation of the intentions of Great Britain in her dealings with them; further adding, that I felt convinced that if they would but hear what I had to say directly, and without the intervention of any outside party, they would at once perceive the practical benefits they would derive from an abandonment of their present line of conduct.

After their departure, I heard that the Rawailevu tribe had prepared an expedition for the slaughter of our friends of Nasaucoko, who had been out on the hills in search of wild yams; but they were deterred by a Chief of Wala, a friendly village, who reminded them that by doing so they would stultify their own words, when they said they would not commence the fighting.

On the following day the people of Koroba (Pickering's Peak) district brought provisions for sale, and I requested one of their number (the Chief of the village of Vunarosawa) to proceed to Rumaileau and assure them of our perfect good faith, and generally to tell them everything I could think of that, from my experience, would sound grateful to their ears.

On the 4th instant, meetings were held at Beimana and at Nasue, on the Wairoro; and on the 6th, a report of the former meeting was brought to me by Robalabala of Koroinasau and a Serua coast Chief, who is their teacher; they stated that the meeting was attended by the Chiefs of all the dissatisfied tribes below Beimana to the sea; the names of these tribes are in the margin.*

Koroinasau, however, I have good reason to believe, has been faithful throughout.

The Chiefs of Beimana and Koroinasau addressed the meeting, and were followed by all who had anything to say in the matter of the business in hand; and Robalabala and the Serua teacher were then sent to declare to me their expressed determination to desist from any further attempt to oppose the Government, and had also dispatched a Chief to Nasue to inform the meeting sitting there of the action they had decided upon taking, and to impress upon them the necessity of their falling in with their views.

They also brought me letters from Buli Serua, Buli Vatukarasa, and a joint one from the Chiefs of Koroinasau, offering assistance to us under any circumstances that might arise, and requesting me to return a written answer which might be read to the Chiefs then assembled at Beimana, which I did at once.

The letters from Buli Serua and Vatukarasa also contained assurances of

* Koroinasau, Nagalimari, Ruwailevu, Mavua, Waicoba, Nokonoko, Drala, Tavuni, Senibukubuku.

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loyalty and good will, and offers of active assistance; but the former cautioned me most strongly to be on my guard against treachery.

The Chiefs of Koroinasau, in their joint letter, also informed me of their intention to visit me at Nasaucoko, and would, if I liked, take me through the disturbed districts to the sea coast, and bring me back again to the camp.

I have the honour to state, in conclusion, that I cannot but consider the aspect of affairs as any other than very satisfactory, and that I now await the results which may be expected to accrue from leaving them for a short while to talk matters over amongst themselves, preparatory to a general meeting of the tribes, which I shall endeavour to bring about as soon as it shall seem expedient to do so.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WALTER S. CAREW,
Resident Commissioner for Colo.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
Levuka.

Inclosure 3 in No. 41.

Extracts from a Letter from Mr. Carew to his Excellency the Governor, dated March 22, 1876.

"I AM expecting to receive a visit from all the chiefs from Beimana downwards, as the Serua Chiefs and the Buli of Vatu-Karasa in connection with Koroinasau are, and have been, exerting themselves in a most energetic and praiseworthy manner to further your Excellency's views.

"They are all off to a meeting of their own at Vatukarasa on the sea coast, and they will then visit me in a body.

"I had a message from Naqaqa yesterday in answer to one of mine asking the chiefs to come and see me, but they say they are afraid, as they sent us back when we were *en route* to Valu Mali.

"We must upon no account hurry them.

* * * * * *

"I quite agree with your Excellency's ideas with reference to amnesty, and have held these ideas myself all along, as the people who are giving trouble did not give in their allegiance at Navuso, in fact, were never asked to do so, they were merely exhorted by Rabu Kini, the late Chief, to give up fighting and to accept Christianity.

"In fact, no one but he could make themselves understood. On the contrary, all those brought in by me I will vouch for, and I take care to keep them in good mind by writing occasionally to them.

"It is very necessary that I should shortly see your Excellency with reference to amnesty matters, as I think your Excellency's views might even be extended, taking in view the fact that these tribes have never given in their allegiance, and I believe were never asked to give their consent to annexation, which would amount to almost the same thing.

* * * * * *

"The Nadi Chiefs are behaving very well indeed, as also Serua, and in fact all those who dislike Nadroga, and I feel morally certain they are acting so well more with a view to annoy Nadroga than anything else."

Inclosure 4 in No. 41.

Photograph.

No. 42.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received May 23.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, April 12, 1876.*

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram on the subject of expenses already incurred on public buildings at Levuka, I have the honour to inclose a Report from the Surveyor-General, Lieutenant-Colonel Pratt, R.E.

2. This Report clearly shows that no public buildings can, at present, be properly said to exist; that they all have yet to be built, whether at Levuka or

elsewhere; and that the cost of building them at Levuka will greatly exceed that of constructing them at almost any other place.

3. The fact is that the words "removal of the Capital" convey a false idea. The real question is the construction of a Capital, not the removal of one already existing. The question for decision is whether the Capital shall be built at Levuka or some other locality.

I impatiently await the arrival of Lieutenant Dawson in order to obtain a Report upon the site which may appear to the engineering, sanitary, and hydrographical authorities to combine the greatest advantages. Politically, I have no doubt as to the superior claims of Suva, should it possess the necessary requisites; at all events, Levuka is highly unlikely to be the site recommended.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

Inclosure in No. 42.

Sir, *Surveyor-General's Office, Levuka, April* 10, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to submit a report dealing with the subject of the expenses that may or may not be entailed (in connection with public works or buildings) by fixing the site of the Capital elsewhere than at Levuka.

Requirements of the capital.

I assume that wherever the site of the Capital may be fixed, it will be considered essential that certain necessary conditions must be fulfilled. These conditions are, taking the public buildings first in order:—

Public buildings.

1. That public buildings of a permanent character must be constructed on lands belonging to the Crown.

Streets, &c.

2. That a town shall be laid out with streets properly paved or metalled, lighted and drained.

Extension of town.

3. That the streets should be laid out with a view to the extension of the capital as the Colony prospers and increases.

Sea communication.

4. That in this Colony at least the Capital must be connected with a good harbour, involving a pier, probably a sea-wall, and that the chances in favour of a seaport site being selected are obvious, from the nature of the ground in the Colony.

Water supply and drainage.

5. That water supply must be obtained and drainage effected at a moderate cost.

Requirements not now fulfilled.

I have mentioned these conditions because the execution of all the work required to assist in fulfilling them has yet to be done in this Colony, either at Levuka or elsewhere, and, also, the conditions will necessitate the removal of many of the present public buildings and their re-erection at Levuka or elsewhere.

So that in a general point of view the expenses of making a capital have yet to be met whereon the site of the Capital may be fixed.

List of public buildings.

The buildings now used to supply public requirements are as follows:—

Government House at Nasova.
Government, Treasury, and Public Offices at Nasova.
Prison, Lock-up, Police-Court, &c., at Totoga.
Supreme Court-House at Nui Kabi.
Royal Engineer's Barracks at Vagadace.
Post-Office, Attorney-General's Office, Customs, at Levuka Beach.
Bonded Stores at Levuka Beach.
Royal Engineer's Machine Shop at Levuka Beach.
Polynesian Labour Depôt and Quarters at Levuka Beach.
Commanding Royal Engineer's and Surveyor-General's Office at Levuka Beach.
Powder Magazine at Vagadace.
Hospital at Totoga.

General nature of buildings.

All these buildings are of a temporary nature, in no case built of stone or brick; some of native construction; timber framing with thatched roof and reeded sides; others ordinary wooden buildings, with roofs of shingles or corrugated zinc; most of the buildings are from four to eight years old; the duration of a wooden house in this climate, as far as I can ascertain, is from seven to eight years, after which it is a case of repair and repair till an actually new erection takes the place of the original.

To enter somewhat into detail of the several buildings used for public purposes. Detail of buildings.

Government house, the residence of the Governor, is a large building partly of native construction, that is, a properly squared framing of timber has been put up, but the outside and partition walls are of reeds, and the roof is thatched with flags; it has been standing for five years. I forward, No. 1 Trace, showing its position and dimensions of ground plan; also a photograph showing the appearance of the building. From the construction, it is evident that the whole edifice might be destroyed by fire in a few minutes, and that it is only reasonable to suppose that the amount of repair that will be required before long will be very considerable. Government House.

Therefore the building can in no sense be considered as a permanent one, and its value I should place at about 1,500*l.*

But, in addition, the ground on which the building stands is claimed by different persons, who have laid their claims before the Lands Commission, and these claims are being investigated. Being one of the Land Commissioners and the claims not settled, I can give no opinion here as to their validity. But it is possible that the claims may prove good, and, if so, then the site must be bought.

Even on arbitration I do not think Government or a public body, as a rule, get land cheap, if the land must be taken.

These offices are in one building, shown on Trace No. 1, at Nasova. The house is of timber framing, with thatched roof, and reeded side and partition walls. It was erected in 1875 by contract, and cost *l.* Like Government House it is liable to accident from fire, but otherwise is a good temporary building for this climate. Government Treasury and Public Offices.

I attach Trace No. 2, showing the ground plan, with dimensions of these buildings at Totoga. Also a photograph giving a general idea of their appearance. The prison and lock-up are stout wooden buildings, recently enlarged by the Royal Engineers. Roofs of corrugated zinc. Value, about 180*l.* to 200*l.* The Police Court is an old but large native hut. In my opinion uninhabitable, certainly unrepairable. Value, nil. The small wooden sheds used for stores, &c., are of very little value, if any. Again, the whole of the land on which these buildings stand are claimed as private property, and may have to be yet paid for. Prison lock-up, Police Court, &c.

I attach a Trace, No. 3, showing site and dimensions of ground-plan of the Court House; also a photograph, showing the general structure. This building is of ordinary timber framework. Match-boarded on sides, but not on ceiling or roof rafters; the roof is of shingle. It has been erected four or five years. The roof is decayed so far that it cannot be repaired. I believe a fair gale will remove the building. The estimated present value I place at 150*l.*; the tenure of the building and site is leasehold from the Wesleyan Mission. Rental, 74*l.* 10*s.* per annum. Court-house, Nui Kabi.

I attach a Trace, No. 4, showing the site of these buildings; also a photograph of their general elevation. The soldiers' quarter is built in native fashion, the cocoa-nut uprights and principal joists having been fixed by the Royal Engineer carpenters. The roof is thatched with flags; side walls and ends reeded. Royal Engineer barracks at Vagadacei.

The orderly-room, store-room, tailors' and bootmakers' workshop, are in one well-built wooden house, with corrugated zinc roof. The cook-house, latrine, &c., are also wooden buildings. The non-commissioned officers' quarter, now in course of construction, is designed as a timber-framed, weather-boarded house, with a shingled roof. These offices are all capable of being moved and re-erected; but cannot be looked on in the light of permanent buildings. The cost of barracks and buildings as they stand now, including the making of roads, excavation of sites, water-tanks, and water supply, is 720*l.*, and, when the quarters in hand are finished, 870*l.*

Trace No. 5 shows dimensions and site of these offices, which are in one building. Attached is a photograph of the general appearance. The building is a weather-boarded, wooden house, with roof of corrugated zinc; and sufficient accommodation is not provided in it for the different offices. The tenure is leasehold. On the Trace is a red line, which defines the boundary of a piece of ground, for which, with the house described, a rental of 300*l.* per annum is paid. Post Office, Attorney-General's Office, Customs, &c.

The site of this building is shown on Trace No. 5. It is an old wooden house, the verandah being weather boarded to give more internal space. The building itself is of little value (50*l.* to 60*l.*), and is not large enough for present requirements. New bonded stores have been asked for, and will be proceeded with when a site is obtained. Tenure leasehold. Photographed with Royal Engineers' machine shop. Bonded stores.

Royal Engineers' machine shop.

A large wooden shed, containing a steam-engine, circular saw, general joiner and other machinery stores, &c. This has been erected by the Royal Engineers and made so as to admit of its removal and re-erection. The site and dimensions are shown on Trace No. 5, and the photograph of building attached. The cost of the building is about *l.* Tenure of site, leasehold.

Polynesian labour depôt.

This is an old cotton ginning shed. Roof and sides of corrugated iron. Machinery still worked, and the place is very unfit for habitation. The rental paid for this place is 104*l.* per annum, and for a small wooden house adjacent where the European Superintendent of the men lives 52*l.* per annum.

Chief Resident Engineer and Surveyor-General's Office.

I attach a Trace No. 6.

A fairly-built wooden house containing four rooms or compartments. Rent, 130*l.* per annum. Trace No. 7 shows site. Photograph attached.

Powder magazine.

There being a considerable quantity of powder in Levuka and no place at all for storing it, a temporary magazine has been erected of timber framing. Corrugated zinc exterior, and close match-boarding inside. The site is well out of the town, and so situated that an explosion would do the minimum of damage. The cost is about *l.* The site has been verbally given. Trace No. 8 shows the site. Photograph attached.

Hospital.

Trace No. 9 shows the site of this building, and a photograph of it is attached. It is a fairly-built wooden building with a shingled roof. I estimate the value at 200*l.*, and, in addition, a dispensary has recently been attached at a cost of 52*l.* The site is private property, but let at a nominal rent to Government.

The tabulated estimated value of public buildings then stands at—

Tabulated value of public buildings.

Buildings the Property of Government.	Estimated Value.	Remarks.
	£	
Government House	1,500	Ownership of site doubtful.
Treasury and Public Offices	600	
Prison, Court House, Lock-up, &c. ..	200	Ditto.
Barracks	870	Site owned by natives.
Machine-shop	250	Site leasehold.
Powder-magazine	100	Site claimed by Dr. Brower.
Hospital	250	Site leasehold.
Bonded store	100	Ditto.

Buildings Rented by Government.	Annual Rental.	Remarks.
	£ s.	
Customs, Post Office, Law Offices, &c. ..	300 0	Tenure. Leasehold.
Surveyor-General and Royal Engineers Office	130 0	
Supreme Court House	74 10	
Polynesian Labour Depôt	104 0	
Superintendents Quarters	52 0	
Government Storekeeper's Quarters ..	39 0	

	£	s.
Total value of Government buildings on sites not leased	1,570	0
Total value of Government buildings on sites actually or possibly leasehold ..	2,300	0
Total annual rental now paid	699	10

Necessity of the construction.

I think the above statement will bear out the opinion that, as far as public buildings are concerned, the work of reconstruction is necessary under any circumstances.

Addition of cost of sites.

It will also appear that, if such reconstruction is to take place at *Levuka*, to the cost of such buildings as may be ordered must be added the price of the *sites at Levuka*. If the buildings are to be made at another station, then the sites must be procured at that station.

Cost of sites at Levuka.

The cost of suitable sites in Levuka, now, I can only arrive at from cases that have been brought to my knowledge.

(1.) Trace No. shows the building and site for which 300*l.* per annum is paid.

(2.) A small piece of unoccupied land on the beach, partly foreshore, was proposed as a site for a market-place, where the natives could expose their yams, taro, &c., for sale. For the few square yards required, the price asked was 1,000*l.*

(3.) The greater part of the land in Levuka belongs to a few proprietors, the largest being the Wesleyan Mission. They do not sell land; the terms for a site

are generally 2*l.* per annum per foot frontage for a lease of five years, with a clause that it may be renewed for another five years. No leases longer than ten years. As most of this leasehold land is sublet, it is seldom that sites can be got for the above-named price. I know of one case where, on lease, 4*l.* a week is charged for a site of about 40 feet frontage, and could easily find many similar cases. It is no wonder that good buildings are put up by no one.

(4.) I have had authority for the last two months to erect a boat-house, at a cost of not more than 5*l.*; I have made every endeavour to get a site 40 feet by 20 feet on the shore, but can only find one, on a rocky shore out of the town, a useless site for any purpose; and for this small portion the price asked is 20*l.* per annum, consequently there is no boat-house.

Therefore it is fair to assume that, to the cost of public buildings to be erected permanently in Levuka, a large sum for sites will have to be added.

Cost of sites at a new station.

I consider that at any site which may be selected on another island the cost of sites will probably be nothing, though the value may be considerable. That is, of course, assuming that, when the site of a township is decided on, the whole of the site will be acquired, in the first instance, for public purposes, and that when the ground has been surveyed, lines of proposed streets laid out, and sites for public buildings fixed, the building sites and frontages will be sold at such a rate as will render the cost of the land retained for public purposes little or nothing.

Actual cost.

As to the actual cost of public buildings to be erected, I cannot, of course, speak without instructions as to nature of proposed buildings; but I presume that, in future, stone or brick will take the place of wood. In this case the cost of erection at Levuka would be about the same as the cost at any equally accessible place.

Recapitulation.

I have therefore stated—

(1.) That reconstruction of public buildings in Fiji will shortly be required.

(2.) That such cost will be largely increased by cost of sites if the reconstruction takes place at Levuka.

(3.) That at a new station such cost of sites will practically be nil.

(4.) The actual cost of reconstruction may be taken as the same at any accessible seaport.

So far for public buildings; but to come to the other requirements of a capital town, referred to at the beginning of this Report.

2. That the town should be laid out in streets, drained, lighted, &c.

Laying out streets.

In Levuka there are no streets, unless the beach may be considered one, no decent footpaths, but every inch of land is owned, and the houses are scattered anyhow over the site. Therefore to lay out streets here for public purposes it will be necessary to pay compensation for land taken and for many houses removed; this amount, as will be seen by my previous statement, will not be a small one. If orders are issued to make this place a permanent Capital the price of land will certainly not go down.

At Levuka.

Elsewhere.

Of course, on a new site, where there is no town, there is no necessity for buying land *by the foot*.

Extension of town.

3. Streets and roads to be laid out with a view to future extension of capital.

I have already reported on 25th January, 1876, that the site at Levuka does not admit of the above arrangement, and attach a copy marked A of that part of the report which refers to the subject.

No new site would be selected which would not admit of considerable extension of the town boundaries.

4. The capital to have a harbour, pier, perhaps sea-wall.

At Levuka the anchorage for large vessels is good, but there is no protection from the wind, and in the hurricane season all small crafts, boats, &c., have to be put on shore or go round the island to sheltered spots. I have previously reported (25th January, 1876) on the nature of the foreshore here, and attach a copy marked B of that part of the report which bears on the subject of reclamation of foreshore. At Levuka some sort of sea-wall will have to be made to prevent the surf coming up to the front row of houses, but my previous report will show the value of land to be obtained by reclamation.

It is very difficult to state what would be the cost of a sea-wall, reclamation, and a pier, but I should think that to take in a fair part of the foreshore, make a pier, &c., would probably cost 20,000*l.* to 30,000*l.*

At a more sheltered station, such as Suva, a sea-wall might be dispensed with, and reclamation only made if it was likely to pay. A pier could be made with much

less difficulty. At other sites which I have not yet seen, but which might deserve inspection, arrangements obviating the necessity of a sea-wall could be made in laying out the township.

5. Town to be supplied with water and drained at a moderate cost.

At Levuka, water supply can be obtained and is supplied easily enough, and I presume no site will be selected unless this condition is fulfilled.

As to the drainage of Levuka, I attach a copy of my report of 25th January, 1876, marked C, wherein I point out the great difficulty of effecting such drainage.

No site presenting similar difficulties would be brought forward as a place whereon to place a town.

I am indebted to Captain Stewart, R.E., for the photographs of the various public buildings, the supply of which has made the description of the buildings much shorter.

I have also to explain that in estimating the value of the public buildings, I have taken what I consider to be the present value, not the sum required to replace them by similar but new buildings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. E. PRATT,
Lieutenant-Colonel, R.E., Surveyor-General.

His Excellency the Governor of Fiji,
&c. &c. &c.

Extracts from Report on Site of Town of Levuka, dated January 25, 1876.

(A.)

Site of Levuka.

As before stated, the town of Levuka is built generally on a flat piece of ground, lying between the foot of the hills and high-water mark.

Levuka flat.

I attach an illustrative sketch of the general conformation of the ground on which the level part—that is, the part adapted for a town is coloured green.

Area.

The area of this part of the ground is 40 acres, in no part is it more than 10 feet above the level of the sea, and in many parts only 3 or 4 feet.

Hill slopes at Levuka.

The hill-sides round this level portion are steep, from 10 to 35 degrees, mostly very hard conglomerate rock cropping out on the surface of the ground.

Terracing and extension of town inland.

To extend the town up these slopes it would be necessary to lay out the hill-sides in terraces; these terraces, even if only made the width of a path with sites of houses on one side of the path, would be very large works; the entire width of site required must be blasted out of the solid rock, and then the sites would be most undesirable from the refracted heat.

(B.)

Reclamation.

There is certainly a foreshore which might be reclaimed, but every objection to such a step exists here. The surface between high and low water marks is a coralline formation, but only two feet thick and with water underneath. The stone for reclamation purposes is of the hardest conglomerate (in one case we had to give up trying to remove a stone from the expense of jumping a hole into it).

Placed as this stone would be in prolongation of the level site of the present town, there would always be a damp foundation to houses built on reclaimed land here.

(C.)

Drainage.

I now come to the main requisite for a healthy town in the tropics, viz., an efficient system of drainage. In Levuka at present the sewage is managed on the dry earth system, the closet-pans are cleared at very short intervals, and the sewage sent out to sea in a proper barge and let free; this disposal of sewage near coral reefs is objectionable, but till lands are more cultivated, or manure required, there appears to be no option.

But when the question of surface or subsoil drainage is entered on at Levuka (as I have had to do in connection with instructions from the Board of Health), a difficulty presents itself, and I confess I see no satisfactory solution of it.

Subterraneous water.

This level piece of alluvial ground on which Levuka stands is only from 4 to

10 feet above high-water mark, but when you cut a ditch down to the level of high-water mark you come on the water itself.

Therefore, to drain the ground by running off the water is an impossibility, and any other scheme to remove the subsoil water effectually, would, from the expense involved, be to all intents an impossibility in this locality.

No. 43.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, May* 31, 1876.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 8th of April,* forwarding copies of two further Reports from Mr. Carew on the state of affairs in the highland district of Viti Levu.

I have read these Reports with interest, and I rely on the continued exercise of Mr. Carew's tact and judgment for the conciliation of the dissatisfied tribes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 44.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, May* 31, 1876.

I HAVE had before me your despatch of the 27th of March,† on the subject of the interpretation to be given to that portion of the Notification issued by Sir H. Robinson's direction in the "Fiji Gazette" of the 10th of February, 1875, which imposes a first charge upon employers' lands for repayment of the sums expended on wages due to Polynesian labourers employed on those lands, or on their return passages.

2. I agree with the view which you put forward that the land should be bound, whenever the labourers employed on it are paid off by the Government, whether they have been employed by the proprietor or by a leaseholder, but that, in the latter case, only so much of the lands as have been so leased should be held liable.

3. It is to be remembered that the charge for these services is one which did not naturally devolve upon the Government, but which was undertaken under the pressure of abnormal difficulties, and solely in the interest of the land of Fiji, in order that, on the one hand, outrages and bloodshed might be averted, and, on the other, that a supply of labour necessary for the tillage of the ground might not cease.

4. It seems, therefore, just that, in all cases, the land should be held responsible, whether the employer of the labour happened to be the original owner of the land or the lessee, who, from one circumstance or another, might not himself be able to meet the claim; with the limitation which you have proposed, that, in the latter case, only so much of the land as was leased, should be held responsible for the debt in case of the lessee making default.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 45.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, May* 31, 1876.

I HAVE had under my consideration your despatch of the 16th of February,‡ reviewing the various modes which have been adopted in Fiji of taxing

* No. 41. † No. 40. ‡ No. 30.

the natives, and explaining the reasons which have induced you to resort to a system which appears to me to be more in accordance with native usage than any other.

The main features of the scheme appear to be the annual assessment by the Legislative Council of the sum to be paid by each district or province, such sum to be realized by the sale of native produce assessed in its amount and description by Local Boards in which the native element will be represented, full powers of remission being retained in the Governor's own hands, to be exercised at his discretion.

Although I should have been glad if it had been possible for you to have communicated to us your views on such an important matter before you had so far committed yourself to the scheme, I cannot doubt that a measure which you have so carefully and laboriously considered has a full claim to be allowed the fair trial which you have requested it should receive. I am, therefore, prepared to sanction this experiment, though, in sanctioning it, I must call upon you to watch its operation most narrowly, and to be especially careful that no hardship or oppression is caused to any class among the native population in the incidence and collection of the tax.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 46.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, May* 31, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 12th of April,* inclosing a Report from Lieutenant-Colonel Pratt, R.E., on the subject of the public works and buildings existing at Levuka, accompanied by plans and photographs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 47.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, June* 19, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 4th of December,† forwarding estimates of the revenue and expenditure of Fiji for the four months ending the 31st of December last.

The provisional establishment having been already assented to by my despatch of the 10th of February, I have merely to convey to you my sanction of the estimates for this period.

On the subject of the purchase of the "Fitzroy," you will receive a separate despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 48.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, June* 20, 1876.

I HAVE had before me your despatches of the 25th of January and 27th of March,‡ respecting the purchase of the steamer "Fitzroy."

I had previously received your despatch of the 13th of December,§ with its inclosures, in which you inform me that you had, with the advice of your Executive Council, accepted the offer made by the Auckland Steam-Packet Company to carry on, at a cost of 300*l.* a-month, the inter-insular service for a period of four months.

* No. 42. † No. 21. ‡ Nos. 35 and 39. § No. 22.

This intimation accompanying the first announcement in your despatch, noted in the margin,* that you had expended 6,000*l.* in the purchase of a steamer is a serious one, for I feel some doubt whether, in the present financial condition of Fiji, such a burden is not too heavy for the resources of the Colony.

I shall be glad to hear from you on this subject in explanation; for, although I do not wish to object to such arrangements for inter-communication among the islands as may be necessary, I am without any information as to the circumstances in which it has been requisite both to purchase a small steamer and to pay a heavy monthly subsidy to a Company. I therefore request that you will furnish me with full particulars of the work on which it is intended to employ the "Fitzroy," and of that which the Company have undertaken to perform.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 49.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(*Received June* 26.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, April* 28, 1876.

ONE of the results of the failure of the planting interest in Fiji has been the inability of employers to fulfil the engagements entered into by them with the Polynesian immigrants working on their estates, as regards the payment of their wages, and the provision for them of return passage to their homes.

2. The difficulties of the planters reached a climax during the year 1874, about the period of the Cession. By that time the term of service (three years) of a large number of immigrants (roughly, about 3,000) had expired, and in the majority of cases the employers were utterly unable to meet their engagements.

3. The subject was one of the first that the new Colonial Government was called upon to consider. It appears to have been unhesitatingly decided by Sir H. Robinson that it was incumbent on the Government to undertake the responsibility of carrying out the contract entered into with the labourers. This decision was induced not only by the desire to secure the just fulfilment of the obligations entered into towards them, but also from motives of policy, as it was evident that a breach of faith with these labourers would put great additional difficulties in the way of obtaining future supplies of labour from among the inhabitants of the various groups whence those already in the country had been induced to emigrate.

4. Sir H. Robinson authorized Mr. Layard to begin at once the task of paying off the time-expired labourers, and of sending them home, and sanctioned the expenditure of 500*l.* for the purpose, a course which subsequently received your Lordship's approval. When it is remembered that the amount due for wages to each man is about 6*l.* 10*s.*, that the average cost of the passage is about 2*l.* 12*s.*, that at the end of 1874 about 3,000 time-expired labourers were waiting to be sent home, and that their employers were not in a position to bear more than a small proportion of the cost, it will be clearly seen that 500*l.* would not go far to carry out the work.

5. The serious and costly task thus undertaken could not, when once begun, be suddenly abandoned, and it has been perseveringly carried on to the present time, though apparently without any further precise authority or sanction either from your Lordship, Mr. Layard, or myself. During the year 1875 nearly 600 time-expired men were sent away, and mostly at the expense of the Government. The epidemic of measles further reduced the number remaining in the Colony by about 600. Meanwhile the terms of service of other labourers were rapidly coming to an end, so that at the beginning of the present year there were still about 2,800 time-expired labourers in the Colony against about 3,000 in January 1875.

6. In all cases in which the Government undertakes to pay off and send home labourers engaged to planters or others, the amounts expended are recovered as opportunity offers, and it is understood that they constitute a first charge against the estate of the employer. Thus eventually it is hoped the Government will, in in a measure, be able to recoup itself. From November 1874, when the undertaking was begun, to the 31st March, 1876, the total outlay has amounted to

* No. 21.

2,872*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.* Meanwhile the sum of 1,030*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.* has been recovered from employers. The actual cost to the Colony, therefore, up to the 31st March, 1876, has been 1,841*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.*

7. As I have already mentioned, there are still nearly 3,000 time-expired labourers awaiting return home, and employers are now, perhaps, more entirely unable to meet their difficulties than at any previous period. In the first instance, therefore, the Government will have to bear a large portion of the burden of the wages and return passages of these people.

8. The number of labourers introduced during the last two years has been comparatively small, 924 in 1873, 754 in 1874, and 404 in 1875, and measures are now taken, before their engagement is permitted, to ensure the payment and return passages of imported immigrants by their employers. Therefore, even on the, I trust highly improbable, assumption that the present depressed condition of the country continues, the Government may look forward to a gradual reduction of the expenditure to be incurred during the next two or three years, and finally to its extinction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

No. 50.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(*Received June* 25.)

My Lord, *Nadi, Fiji, May* 6, 1876.

I REGRET to have to report to your Lordship that my attempt quietly and gradually to establish the authority of the Government over the highlands of Viti Levu without disturbance have not proved altogether successful, and that an attack, attended with some loss of life, has been made upon several native Christian villages by some of the heathen tribes of the mountains.

2. On the 12th ultimo, four or five small and defenceless villages, situated on the boundary of the Provinces of Nadi and Nadroga, were suddenly attacked and burnt by the heathen tribes of the vicinity. At one of them a woman and her child were killed. The assailants then proceeded to two larger and stronger villages, but, on finding them prepared to resist attack, they offered no molestation to them. On the 17th ultimo they appeared before, and were allowed to enter, the town of Nadronia, where they found a considerable body of loyal natives, by whom they were in a few minutes completely repulsed, several of their number being killed or wounded.

3. About the same time, a similar attack was made on the Christian villages on the bank of the Sigatoka River by a party of heathens from that quarter. On hearing this, the Roko Tui of Nadroga assembled a party of men, and, crossing the Sigatoka, inflicted a severe punishment on the marauders, whose villages he burned, and killed or captured many of their number.

4. Meanwhile, an attack was made by another party of the heathen on the village of Satuba, the people of which,—equally highlanders with themselves, but Christians,—took refuge in a cave, where they were besieged. Having found means to communicate intelligence of this fact to the camp at Nasaucoko, a party of police was sent by Mr. Carew to the relief of the villagers. The assailants were routed in the most complete manner, taking flight precipitately to join the other defeated parties in a locality where they must speedily be surrounded and apprehended.

5. The attacks of the mountaineers have, with two exceptions, been entirely confined to native villages. At the mouth of the Sigatoka River they burnt the house of a white man who has long been in the habit of supplying them with ammunition. Lately he has been afraid to do so in defiance of the law, and his inability to continue the trade has been deeply resented by the mountaineers. They also attacked, but unsuccessfully, the house of another white man in the immediate vicinity, who is for many reasons very unpopular with all classes of natives, whether mountaineers or lowlanders. This individual took refuge in his boat, but his house and property were successfully defended, and its assailants forced to fly by the Buli of Vatukarasa, a man who has received every species of insult and injury from the person to whom he has now offered such efficient assistance.

6. The first intelligence that reached me of these events was from a letter of a native teacher at Vatukarasa, Esala Seru, of which I have the honour to inclose a

translation. Shortly afterwards a letter reached me written by the four principal Bulis of the Province of Nadi, who, in the absence of the Roko Tui of Ba at Levuka, had met together for the purpose of reporting to me and asking my instructions. Of this letter I have the honour also to inclose a translation. Mr. Carew's letter of the 12th ultimo did not reach me until the 22nd, and, indeed, I have had frequent occasion during the period of anxiety caused by this outbreak to regret the inconvenience resulting from the insular position of Levuka, and the difficulties which often attend communication between the Island of Ovalau and the mainland of Viti Levu.

7. On learning what had occurred, I at once determined to despatch such assistance as I could command to Mr. Carew, but, at the same time, not to exaggerate the importance of what is after all a purely local disturbance. I accordingly sent down all the police that could be spared, with two members of my own staff as assistants to Mr. Carew, who I authorized to enrol any number of special constables that he might deem requisite, in addition to the regular police force. I have the honour to report that I have now come down to this place in order to confer personally with Mr. Carew (whose proceedings up to this time have, as usual, been marked by judgment and discretion), as to the measures to be adopted for securing the capture of the perpetrators of these outrages.

8. The causes of this outbreak are probably of a somewhat complex character. It is partly due, no doubt, to the restless, fierce, and suspicious character of the highlanders themselves; partly also to the injudicious meddling of certain busybodies, both native and European, who have endeavoured to impress upon them that it was the intention of Government to compel them to adopt Christianity against their will. Experience of former treachery has also made them incredulous as to the sincerity of the professions made by myself at Na Vola, as reported in my despatch of 16th February,* and by Mr. Carew in his intercourse with them. Nor is it quite impossible that the fears and passions of the mountaineers may to some extent have been played upon by designing parties not unwilling to provoke a contest calculated to sweep away evidence inconvenient to their ill-founded claims, and which, if the traditions of the late Fijian Government be adhered to, would empty a large tract of fertile land of its inhabitants and provide an abundant supply of forced labour for the plantations. But, to whatever causes they are due, it is essential that such lawless outrages should receive severe and speedy chastisement. That this will be speedily inflicted, and that the police will in a short time have succeeded in effecting the arrest of those concerned in them, I have not the smallest doubt.

9. I inclose a rough sketch map of the western part of Viti Levu, which will show your Lordship the locality of this disturbance, to which I trust no exaggerated importance will be attached. It is an unfortunate occurrence, and has frustrated the hopes I had so sanguinely entertained, and which until a very short time ago appeared so likely to be fulfilled, of establishing in a peaceful manner the supremacy of law and order in the mountains. But it must be remembered that this object is still likely in a great measure to be attained, although not with that absolutely undisturbed tranquillity which I had hoped, and that the disturbance is local and partial. It is only a small portion of the highland tribes, and indeed but a portion of the minority amongst them, who have all along remained heathens, or renounced Christianity since the measles, who have been concerned in these raids. The important heathen town of Beimana, on the Sigatoka itself, has remained faithful to the Government, and the influence of the camp at Nasaucoko has preserved tranquillity among a population not perhaps disinclined to join their neighbours in these late forays, whilst the tribes of the upper part of the interior (Nadrau, &c.) are thoroughly staunch in their professions of obedience.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 50.

Sir, *Vatukarasa, April* 18, 1876.

EVIL has arrived in our district. They from Batiri are clubbed; all the towns until you arrive at Korotogo are burned.

A great number of men are clubbed; I do not correctly know the number. The teachers I do not know where they are, that is Navitalai, from Korotogo, and

* No. 31.

the two who are (or were) here. The man found some who had been clubbed, one old woman, and two, a mother and child; one old woman shot in the neck, and one able-bodied man shot dead; and one speared with a tabevatu. These we know, but the number of men dead is not yet clear.

The attacking party were from Tavuni, Nadrala, Vatuvoko, and all the devils in this district, or on this side. Five of the devils are dead. The magistrate (native) from Tavuni was shot, and said to have been dragged off to be cooked. One of his brothers also is dead, and three others.

These are known to be killed, but we do not yet know the truth of the story. Our district is ruined. On this (Monday) morning this thing happened.

I beg of you some paper and envelopes that I may continue writing to you. I have no more paper.

I write this letter in great haste.

My love to you.

I am, &c.

To the Teacher at Rewa. (Signed) E. SALA SERU.

Inclosure 2 in No. 50.

Sketch.

Inclosure 3 in No. 50.

Your Excellency, *Vuda, April* 14, 1876.

I WRITE to you forwarding the report of the district Bulis.

The people of the interior have come to make war. Several towns have been burnt, namely, Deva, Vumrosawa, Vunimoli, Nalogi, and Nawaga.

This is all, Sir, we have to report to your Excellency and the officer in command, that you may know of what has arisen here.

We are now only waiting for your decision; are we to proceed to the Commissioner in the interior, or shall we remain in our districts? Instruct us, Sir, in reference to these matters.

This is our report.

We are, &c.

(Signed) SABON, *Buli Vuda.*
NAVULA, *Buli Nadi.*
BUKATAVATAVA, *Buli Sabeto.*
DAURUA, *Buli Veetogo.*

His Excellency the Governor of Fiji,
&c. &c. &.

Inclosure 4 in No. 50.

Extract from the Resident Commissioner's Letter, Colo, to the Colonial Secretary, Levuka, dated April 12, 1876.

Sir, *Nasaucoko, Colo, April* 12, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the malcontent tribes of Rawailevu, Nagalimari, Nokonoko, Tavuni, and others, have this day attacked the loyal villages of Nawaga, within two miles of our camp; also Tovei, Vodawa, Koroivatu, Vunarosawa, Deva, Vunamoli, Nalogi, and Vunamatabuco.

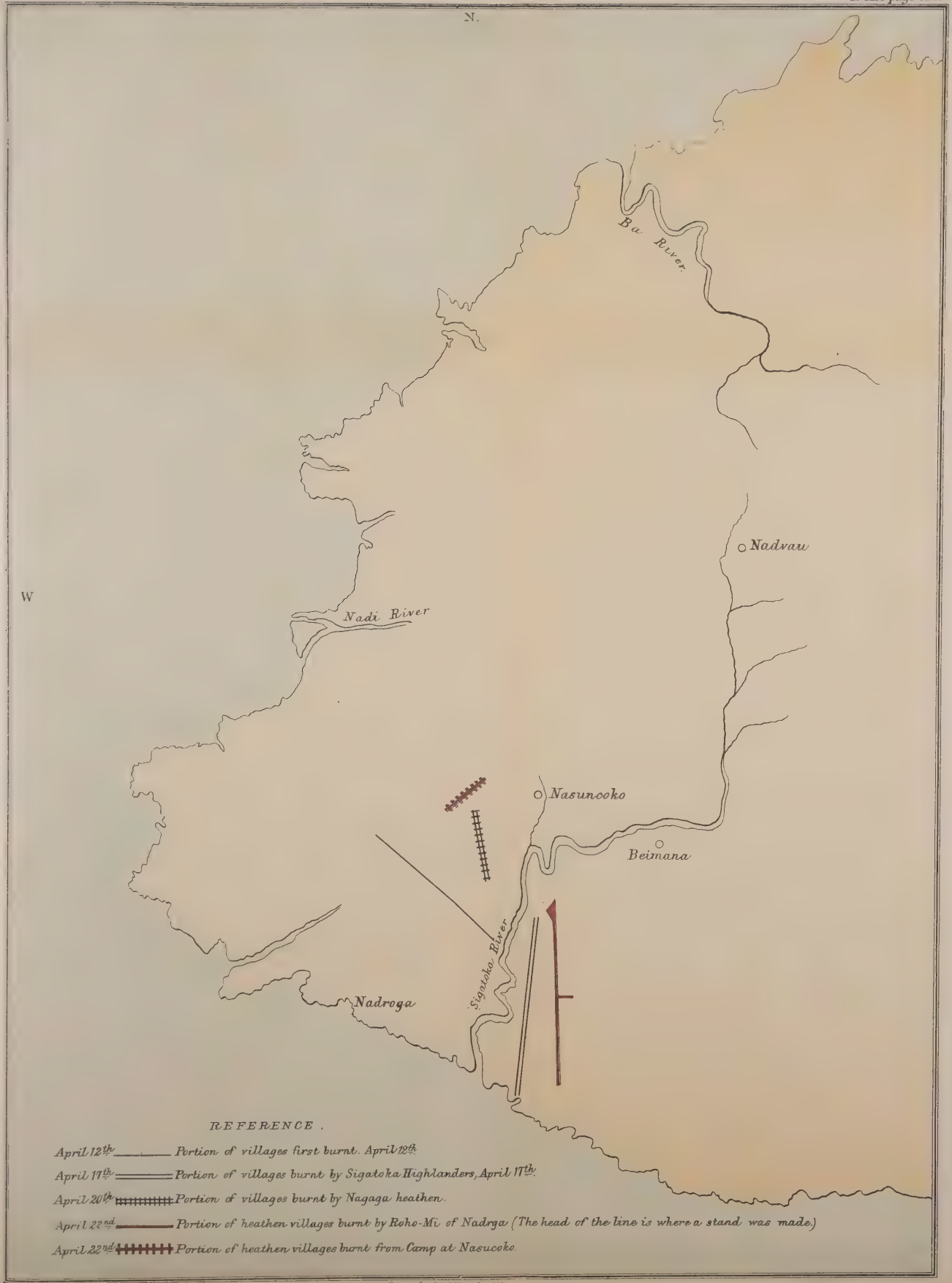
At the former village they succeeded in murdering a woman and her child, and all the other villages mentioned they burnt; but I have not yet learnt the whole particulars, and am unable to state whether any murders were committed there.

Inclosure 5 in No. 50.

Extract from the Resident Commissioner's Letter to the Colonial Secretary, dated April 26, 1876.

Sir, *Nasaucoko, Colo, April* 26, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the cannibal tribes below Beimana burnt during the past week six villages of loyal natives, killing and wounding fourteen, chiefly women and children.


N.
W
Ba River.
Nadvau
Nadi River
Nasuncoko
Beimana
Sigatoka River
Nadroga
REFERENCE.
April 12th. Portion of villages first burnt. April 12th.
April 17th. Portion of villages burnt by Sigatoka Highlanders, April 17th.
April 20th. Portion of villages burnt by Nagaga heathen.
April 22nd. Portion of heathen villages burnt by Roko-Mi of Nadrga (The head of the line is where a stand was made.)
April 22nd. Portion of heathen villages burnt from Camp at Nasucoko.

(1835 10/15 1531)[P.O. 656]
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They were then attacked by the Nadroga and Koroinasan people, and by those of the coast villages, between Sigatoka mouth and Navola, who burnt a number of their villages, killing six and taking six prisoners, driving them up the river to Rawailevu, where they are now awaiting capture whenever it shall be expedient to take them.

The whole of the villages belonging to the tribes who have been charged with killing goats, &c., belonging to Byrnes and Meader have been destroyed, some of the ringleaders shot, and some taken prisoners.

Also on the 24th instant the tribes from Nabutantan, Wairoro, and Naqaqa assembled in force to attack Tatuba, a loyal village in our immediate vicinity, whose inhabitants had given offence by supplying our camp with food.

These people burnt the houses in the village, when the old men, women, and children took refuge in a cave. The mouths of the cave were at once taken possession of by the cannibals, who occupied themselves during the whole night in firing upon the defenceless occupants.

A messenger came to inform me during the night of these occurrences, and I dispatched at daylight a body of fifty police, seventeen of whom carried breech-loaders, and were accompanied by about forty of our allies.

They came up with the cannibals, who were still firing into the cave, and attacked them, completely routing them and driving them right into the Naqaqa village called Matawalu, killing the notorious Chief Nabisiki, and several others, who were left in the road.

There were also many wounded, and these savages have now received such a severe check, from the head of the river to the mouth, that I believe they will no longer be able to act on the offensive.

The loss on our side consists of one Mataka man killed, and one wounded; also two of the police have been wounded, one shot through his hand, and the other a flesh wound on his shoulder.

I have sent instructions to Buli Serua to bring his men down to assist Buli Vatukarasa, and also to Roko Tui Ba, to occupy Nadrau for its protection and to overawe the Nabutantan and Naqaqa people; but although my letter was sent two weeks ago I have received no response, and for several weeks past, although I have heard rumours of murders at Ba, I have been totally unable to gain any intelligence, and cannot understand what Roko Tui Ba and the Buli are doing.

Inclosure 6 in No. 50.

Your Excellency, *April* 29, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to address you at the request of Mr. A. Gordon, whom I met at Cuvu.

I was on the point of starting for Levuka to carry the despatches of the Roko Tui, but, at the request of Mr. Gordon, I have consented to accompany Captain Knollys for the present.

Mr. Gordon asked me to give you a succinct account of the operations which the Roko of Nadroga has carried on against the Kai Colo.

I shall endeavour to convey to your Excellency, as clearly as possible, the events in rotation as they occurred.

The first intelligence of any disturbance reached Cuvu on the evening of the 12th, when the news arrived that the Kai Colo had risen, and attacked and burnt several towns on the confines of Nadi. The towns destroyed were "Vuni Moli," "Duva Matala," "Vuni Rosawa," Na Logi, and Na Culi.

Parties were told off by Ratu Luki to defend the salient points, and a watch was kept to see when next the enemy would appear.

Navula, the Chief of Nadi, sent over a couple of tabuas to beg the Roko's assistance in the defence of Burna—a strong town, situated in the mountains between Nadi and Nadroga. This assistance was accordingly given, parties being sent up from several Naroga towns under Dainela, a man who has distinguished himself as a leader.

Meanwhile, on the 13th, 14th, and 15th, the Kai Colos burnt the towns of Nadure, Novunma, Dagala, Uto, and Vagudra. On the 15th they made their appearance before Borna; the town was well supported; and the enemy, after a parley, in which they suggested that it would be well to throw off the cloth, the Lotu and the Matanitu, and burn the town, to which they received indignant

denials, withdrew, saying they would burn Nabuasu, a town on the Qiwa River, within about seven miles from Cuvu. The instructions of Mr. Commissioner Carew have been peremptory that in no case were the Nadroga men to commence hostilities or fire first, and so the Kai Colos keeping the peace were permitted to withdraw unmolested.

Next day—Sunday, the 16th—the enemy appeared in like manner before Nabuasa, and a repetition of the scene of Borna occurred here; seeing the force too strong for them, they withdrew, saying they would go and burn Nadromai, within, I think, four miles of Cuvu, and unpleasantly close to no white settlers. They slept that night in Bulu, a small town from which the Nadroga people had withdrawn as incapable of defence. Neither is Nadromai a strong town, but a small fence was hurriedly put up, more for the purpose of concealing their numbers than for defence.

On the 17th all was ready in Nadromai, and about midday the enemy appeared before the town, beating their bamboo drums and yelling and quivering in their heathen fashion; they then called to the Turaga in Lewa that they wanted to come into the town, and sleep during the heat of the day and drink. The reply was, the "water is dirty; the women have been washing their likus in it. We don't want you in the town; get away on the path to your homes;" at last they came swarming into the town with a rush.

I think a glance must have convinced them that they had got into a hornet's nest; the Nadroga men crouched all round armed; a smart ovisa at the lali, and orders not to fire, till the Kai Colo puts a good face on the matter, and ran up crying "Mai vu lulu, guaca ui vu lulu" ("guaca" is a strong expressive word in the Nadroga dialect, and may be fitly interpreted by "bother"); but shake hands they did with the one hand, gun, club, or battle-axe in the other, and then again the same parley occurred; and so the parties stood in such close proximity, the one party waiting the signal from the lali, the other perhaps undecided what to do. At last the Kai Colo attempted to snatch some of the guns out of the hands of the Nadroga men, and, at the same time, put a fire stick into one of the houses. The old Turaga in Lewa, of Tauran, in charge had a battle-axe under his shirt; on seeing the flame, he drew out his battle-axe with a flourish and , the signal agreed upon for the lali, which rang out its sharp war-beat, and a volley was fired by the Nadroga men, and returned by the mountaineers; then a scrimmage ensued, and lasted about two or three minutes, when the Kai Colo fled, utterly routed, and leaving eleven dead within the hara, and carrying off many more. Not much pursuit was made, as fighting had been heard that morning at the Sigatoke, and the men hurried off to that quarter.

On that same morning the Kai Colo attacked and burnt out several towns on the Sigatoke, on the east bank of the river, killing some women and children.

The Roko was so angry that he resolved to cross the Sigatoke River and punish the murderers; and having fortunately received permission from Mr. Carew, so, on the 18th, the Nadroga men crossed the river in force, and burnt four or five mountain towns, none of them strong enough to make much resistance, the Kai Colo flying to Tavuni, a strong place in the top of a steep rock, where they determined to make a stand.

The 19th was spent in a reconnoitre of this town by the Nadroga men and in preparing cartridges, and on the 20th the Nadroga men stormed Tavuni, and took it fairly by assault, attacking in three divisions, two of which engaged the enemy's attention, and kept up a good fire, whilst the third party crept up the face of the rock and so got into the town, and once in the fight was soon over, as the Kai Colo fled precipitately, the Nadroga men in hot pursuit to the town of Nadrola, some three or four miles in the rear; this town was taken immediately.

The 21st was spent in getting in yams, and several thousand were obtained; growing crops were respected at the order of the Roko, quite a novel feature in Fijian warfare.

On the 22nd the Nadroga men went out and burnt out the towns of Nako Nako, Dravula-Qeri Qeri, which the Kai Colo had vacated, and then returned to their homes; and thus this little campaign of a week came to a conclusion.

The Kai Colo have retreated to Bulusia and Na Qabinari, where they are busy putting up fences.

Twenty or thirty prisoners have been secured, some taken in the fight and others brought in afterwards, men, women, and children; and amongst them the Chief of Nadrala, Qusu Levu, one of the three instigators of this attack; of the

other two, one of the Chiefs of Tavuni was killed, the other, known to be shot through the breast, but not taken.

M. GRABURN.

His Excellency the Governor of Fiji,
&c. &c. &c.

Inclosure 7 in No. 50.

Extract of Letter from the Resident Commissioner, Interior, to the Colonial Secretary, Levuka.

Sir, *Nadi, May 5*, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I arrived to-day at Nadi to meet his Excellency the Governor, hourly expected, leaving Captain Knollys, A.D.C., Deputy Commissioner, in charge of the work and the camp.

On the 28th April I decided to burn the small village of "Vatumali," one mile from the loyal village of "Wata."

This village has become a source of constant danger to us, as the enemy from all quarters were in the habit of assembling there in great force, threatening "Wata" and Tatuba; and had, moreover, there a depôt of provisions.

The Chief professed friendship to all parties, and gave repeated warnings of intended attacks to all alike; and I sent to bring him and his people to our camp, not as prisoners, but to keep them from further mischief.

But our party, on arriving there, found them in the act of leaving for Naqaqa, so the town was burnt, and a much-needed supply of food obtained for the police.

On the night of the 30th of April, a messenger arrived from "Wata," having, with difficulty, made his way through the enemy's force, to inform me that his village had been for the past two days surrounded by the mountaineers from above Beimana, and asking for assistance.

At daylight I despatched fifty police, under Ratu Tevita Madigibuli and Ratus Sakinsa, and Tui Kubulan with fifty of the Nadi and Kai-na-Mataku men to relieve Wata.

On their arrival they found the enemy assembled in great force, with their women and children employed in destroying the plantations of food.

On the arrival of our force they at once decamped, making up the Wairoro for Waibasaga, one of their largest villages.

Our party then divided into three, one following up either side of the river over the high ground, and the remaining party going up the bed of the river in rear of the enemy.

They entered Waibasaga, but were at once driven out by our men who burnt the village, and returned to Nasaucoko, eight miles off.

The burning of Waibasaga was an absolute necessity, as otherwise they would have returned to "Wata," to resume their attack on the following morning.

After burning Waibasaga, our men advanced to a height immediately above the village of Nasue, and nothing but my most positive orders that they should return to camp that night saved that village.

On the 3rd May I despatched the Nadi men with some loyal natives to the number of, in all, thirty-five, to burn Korovatu, a village of the enemy directly on the road between our camp and Beimana; these people had stopped our communications with Beimana and the Serua coast, the enemy were constantly in the habit of making a rendezvous of the place, which they declared they intended to hold to keep open the communication between those living above Beimana, and called the "Kaiyata," and those living below, called the "Kai Ra."

On the arrival of our party, they found the Ruwailevu people engaged in building new houses, and putting up a fence round the village.

They at once decamped, and the rest of the people, consisting of those who had fled from Vatu Mali to Naqaqa, but had afterwards left there for this village, were brought into the native village of Nasaucoko and disarmed.

Every care is being taken of them by the people here, to whom they are related.

Previously to leaving, the village was destroyed in obedience to my orders.

It may be necessary, perhaps, to explain my reasons for this action by comparing the country in the possession of the enemy to an ordinary funnel, the neck

of which constitutes the tribes below Beimana, and the wide top those above that village.

The country above Beimana is wide, hilly, and in places covered with forest, and the cannibals residing below Beimana, who I shall for the future style the "Kai Ra," expressed the determination to hold Koro Vutia in order that, when worsted by the Nadroga and other loyal natives, they might flee to the wide, hilly, forested country of the "Kai Yata," and, as they suppose, keep up the fighting for an indefinite period.

But I had previously determined to begin from Nadrau, so as to force the enemy down to the neck of the funnel at the back of Nadroga and on the river, and to this alone may be ascribed the fact of the immunity hitherto enjoyed until the affair at Tatuba of the Naqaqa people.

I have, however, omitted to state that the Chief of Beimana was in company at the time with the men I sent to burn Korovutia.

I received a letter to-day from Captain Knollys, A.D.C., Deputy Commissioner, to inform me that on the night succeeding these events the "Kai Ra" assembled in force to visit the scene, when a Beimana man who was present, who bore enmity to the Chief's brother, informed them that Kolikoli, the Chief of Beimana, assisted in burning the village.

They at once left for Beimana, entering into and occupying three portions of it. The Chief's officer challenged them; they said they came to fight, so he shot one dead; afterwards two others were shot, and on the setting of the moon they left, leaving one dead body in the hands of the Beimana people, who sent it to Nasaucoko in witness of their action on the Government side.

In conclusion, I have the honour to inform you that the behaviour of our men is deserving of the very highest praise.

No. 51.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, June* 29, 1876.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 19th of January, forwarding the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure of Fiji for the year 1876, together with your further despatch, of the 26th of the same month,* containing a detailed report upon those Estimates.

2. As regards the Establishment, I observe that the additions in this Estimate over that for the four last months of 1875 are at the rate of about 1,600*l.* a-year; but I am not prepared to dissent from the conclusions which have induced you to consider them as essential for the present.

3. Under the head of Services, exclusive of the Establishment, a comparatively large item, 14,480*l.*, is set down for immigration purposes, but of this sum nearly one-half is required for the return passages of labourers whose term has expired, and I trust that it may yet be found possible to recover a considerable part of this sum. With regard to the introduction and employment of Indian labourers, it is desirable that I should receive full explanations from you in a separate despatch.

4. You are aware that some persons in this country object in principle to the extension of the system of coolie emigration to any new colonies; and while I am of course satisfied that, under your supervision, the interests of the Indian labourer will be fully protected, it is necessary that you should give me detailed information as to the safeguards which you will be able to establish against any abuses.

5. Of the two several sums of 500*l.* for the drainage and water-supply of Levuka, which I observe in the amount of 14,015*l.* which you have allotted to public works, I understand that if, as seems most likely, the Capital will be fixed elsewhere, this expenditure will not be wholly required.

6. As I have addressed a separate despatch to you on the subject of the purchase and employment of the steamer "Fitzroy," I need only on the present occasion express a hope that it may be found possible, in view of the smallness of her tonnage and the price of Australian coal in the ports nearest Fiji, to keep the expenditure in maintaining her strictly within the limits which you have prescribed. I am the more disposed to anticipate that this may be effected, as the uses to which the "Fitzroy" will be put are apparently of an occasional nature; an additional

* Not printed.

heavy item appearing in the Estimates for inter-insular service. From her tonnage, also, I observe that it cannot be intended that she should convey you beyond the limits of the Colony, nor, indeed, would it seem fitting that your visits to the neighbouring islands in your capacity of High Commissioner should be generally made otherwise than in a man-of-war.

7. A serious deficiency of revenue seems inevitable during the present year, in view of a proposed expenditure of 71,381*l.* against a revenue estimated at 40,400*l.*, which revenue, I greatly fear, may not be obtained. It is urgently necessary that you should proceed very slowly in the two principal matters of expenditure, viz., public works, on which you propose to expend 14,015*l.*, and immigration, to which you assign 14,480*l.* I have requested the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury to authorize the preparation of a Supplementary Estimate for the present financial year, in order to obtain from Parliament a further grant in aid of the revenues of the Colony.

8. It only remains for me to convey to you my sanction to the Estimates for this year, on the understanding that reductions in the sense which you propose will eventually be carried out so far as circumstances may admit.

9. I would observe for your future guidance that a Table of Assets and Liabilities should have accompanied the Estimates which you have sent home.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 52.

Colonial Office to Treasury.

Sir, *Downing Street, June* 29, 1876.

I AM directed by the Earl of Carnarvon to transmit to you, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, the accompanying despatches from the Governor of Fiji, together with a copy of his Lordship's reply,* respecting the estimates of revenue and expenditure for the present year, to which, in the circumstances mentioned, his Lordship has not felt justified in withholding his sanction.

Looking to the financial condition of Fiji as shown in these despatches, I am to state that Lord Carnarvon feels that there is no possibility of dispensing with the sum of 60,000*l.* remaining unvoted, out of the sum of 100,000*l.* promised in your letter of the 12th of June, 1875, in aid of the revenues of Fiji; and I am to request that you will inform him whether their Lordships are of opinion that a supplementary estimate for 1876-7 may at once be prepared in this Department for that amount.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. R. MALCOLM.

No. 53.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, July* 4, 1876.

I HAVE had before me your despatch of the 28th of April,† respecting the payment of the wages and return passages of Polynesians employed on plantations in Fiji, and reporting that about 3,000 time-expired labourers were still awaiting the opportunity of returning to their homes.

2. I see no reason to doubt that, under the regulations in force, justice will be done as regards the payment of wages due to these Islanders, and I have full confidence in your judgment in respect to the gradual return of those whose term of service is expired, and who may elect to go back to their own country.

3. I have not overlooked the difficulties which have surrounded this question, chiefly in consequence of the epidemic with which the Colony was visited last year, and my despatch of the 28th of May, 1875,‡ will have informed you that I approved the decision at which Sir H. Robinson had arrived, to delay taking steps for obtaining vessels to return labourers during the prevalence of the measles.

4. I observe in a despatch addressed by Mr. Layard to Lord Derby on the

* No. 51. † No. 49. ‡ No. 20 of C. 1337 of 1875.

3rd of September, 1874, a suggestion to the effect that it would be well if such Polynesians as might be disposed to settle in the Colony could be encouraged to do so by the offer of plots of land, a proposal which would appear to acquire additional weight from the fact that 40,000 of the population have since that time been unhappily swept away. I am not, however, aware how far it would be possible to find land in suitable situations for this purpose.

The suggestion has only been thrown out, and does not seem to have been weighed or considered, but as it might, if feasible, conduce towards lessening the the present difficulties of the Colony, I should be glad if you would consider and report to me whether, in cases where labourers are clearly willing to settle in Fiji, some inducement of this nature could be extended to them with profit to the Colony under your Government.

5. Such a scheme, if it could in any measure be carried out, would appear to possess the advantages of encouraging a small number of Islanders of industrious habits to settle among the population, and of saving the expenditure of some part of the large sum which it has been found necessary to set apart in this year's estimates for the return of Polynesians to their homes, and besides the more rapid extinction of the expenditure on this service to which you look forward in the future.

6. In such cases it would of course be necessary to place beyond all doubt the fact that the act of settlement was purely voluntary on the immigrant's part.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 54.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, July 7, 1876.*

I HAVE received, with much regret, the intelligence conveyed in your despatch of the 6th of May,* reporting the outbreak of disturbances, attended with loss of life, which had summoned you to Viti Levu, and which had rendered it necessary to adopt active measures with the view of re-establishing law and order.

I await with anxiety the receipt of further information, and rely on the exercise of a spirit of firmness and conciliation on your part in effecting the pacification of the disturbed districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 55.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received July 18.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, June 7, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to submit for your Lordship's approval rough estimates of the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for 1877. I do so at this early date because they involve very important decisions, and because, in the event ot their adoption, it is desirable that I should be able, some months before the end of the year, to give notice of the intentions of Her Majesty's Government to those affected by the proposed changes.

2. The present financial position of the Colony cannot be considered satisfactory. The expenditure for 1875 amounted to 42,265*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.*, whilst the revenue for that year, exclusive of the Imperial Loan, was only 16,255*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.*

3. The deficit of 26,009*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* thus accruing was covered by an appropriation of that amount from the loan of 40,000*l.* advanced by the Imperial Parliament.

4. As regards the present year the Receiver-General is of opinion, and in this opinion I concur, that the estimate of revenue, from sources other than native taxes, will at least be fully realized. These sources of revenue were estimated at 18,000*l.*, and the receipts from them during the first quarter of the year exceeded 5,000*l.*

* No. 50.

5. With regard to the item of native taxes, the new system was established so short a time before the commencement of the present year that its full effects cannot be felt until 1877, and although I believe much more than that amount will be received, I think it safer to assume that only half of the assessment of 22,000*l.* will be received during the current year.

The estimate of revenue from all sources for the year will then be 29,000*l.*

6. The estimated expenditure for the year is, on account of establishment 23,085*l.*, and on account of services, exclusive of establishments, 48,296*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.*, making a total of 71,381*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.*

The expenditure of the first quarter has reached the sum of 13,245*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.*, which would, if the same average were maintained throughout the year, forecast a total expenditure of about 53,000*l.* But unforeseen causes of expenditure have already arisen and may be multiplied, and I will therefore assume that the expenditure will not fall short of 60,000*l.*, beyond which sum I think it certainly will not pass.

7. It will be necessary, therefore, to provide for a deficit of 31,000*l.* To meet in part this deficit, a balance remaining in hand at the end of 1875 amounting to 12,379*l.* 10*s.* may be applied, a deficit of 18,620*l.* 10*s.* will still be left.

8. Your Lordship has informed me in your despatch of the 29th June, 1875, that it is the intention of the Imperial Government during the present Session to ask Parliament for a vote of 60,000*l.* to be advanced to the Colony in the same manner as the loan of 40,000*l.* during last year.

If this loan is sanctioned the final estimated deficit will be covered, and a sum of about 41,000*l.* left in hand at the end of 1876.

9. This result, however, can be expected only on the assumption that three important and costly undertakings are to remain untouched during the current year:—

(1.) The liquidation of the claims against the late Fijian Government, roughly amounting to 90,000*l.*, but probably reducible to 80,000*l.* or 75,000*l.*

(2.) The construction of the capital at Suva, Levuka, Savu-Savu, or elsewhere.

(3.) The settlement of the claims of the Polynesian Company, for which a sum of 9,000*l.* has been already virtually appropriated.

10. The financial position of the Colony for 1877 painted in its blackest colours may be stated as follows;—

	£
Expenditure for 1877 (repeated from 1876)	70,000
Formation of a Capital, say	20,000
Debt of Fijian Government	90,000
Payment of Polynesian Company	9,000
Imperial loan	100,000
	289,000

Against which may be placed—

	£
Estimated revenue, say	40,000
Balance from loan	41,000
	81,000

But in point of fact this statement is over coloured. The expenditure for 1876 is not likely to exceed 60,000*l.*, and there are several large items which need not reappear in the estimates for 1877.

The cost of the formation of the Capital if its site be anywhere but Levuka may be to a great extent, in the opinion of the Surveyor-General, almost altogether defrayed by the sale of lots in the intended township. And the liabilities of the late Fijian Government will probably be much reduced by close investigation.

11. The case may therefore more fairly be stated thus:—

	£	£
Expenditure for 1877		60,000
Debt from Fijian Government		80,000
Payment to Polynesian Company		9,000
Imperial loan		100,000
		249,000
Revenue, 1877	40,000	
Balance from loan	41,000	
		81,000
Total amount of liabilities		168,000

I have made the statement in the above form as being the most simple shape in which the financial position of the Colony can be expressed.

In dealing, however, with the finances, I propose to treat the figures in a different, and I hope, more satisfactory manner.

12. I propose to reserve altogether the 41,000*l.*, balance from the loan of 1876, for works of a necessary but remunerative character. This will increase the sum required to meet the liabilities of the Government to 209,000*l.*, and leaving out of consideration, for the present, the Loan from the Imperial Government (the repayment of which is not expected to be made until more prosperous days), there remains to be met a debt of 109,000*l.*

13. The amounts of the actual debts of the Government, so far as they can be ascertained—and I do not suppose they are less than what I have now stated—are matters of fact and cannot by any process short of repudiation be diminished.

14. The two remaining factors of the calculation, viz., the revenue and ordinary expenditure for the year, are of course merely rough estimates, and are susceptible of alteration and modification. With regard to the first of these factors, I am of opinion that there is no reason to expect any very large excess in the revenue of 1877 over that of 1876, except in the item of native taxes. Under this head there will be a large augmentation, and I am confident that the revenue from this source will not fall short of the estimates made for 1876, and will probably considerably exceed them.

15. But the Estimates for 1876, although they may be realized, will not be greatly exceeded in 1877. And several years will probably elapse before the evil effects that have arisen from the unsettled state of questions vital to the interests of the Colony, and the calamities with which it has been visited have passed away, and before a better state of things will have time to bear fruit. These considerations, and the calculations I have made, forbid any sanguine hope that the estimated deficit at the end of 1877 will be falsified by a rapid increase of revenue or any other abnormal circumstance.

16. There remains to be considered one other changeable factor in these Estimates, and that is the estimated expenditure. And with the alterations in the establishments which I am about to submit to your Lordship, I believe it is possible to reduce the expenditure to such an extent as to render the revenue sufficient to cover every item of ordinary establishment and services, as well as the interest on a loan which it will be necessary to raise.

17. I have already estimated that, at the end of 1876, there will be a balance in hand of about 41,000*l.*, the unexpended portion of the Imperial Loan of 60,000*l.* I would propose to devote this sum strictly to purposes of reproductive works and services, and to any expenses incurred in the formation of a new capital not covered by the sale of town lots. I would not appropriate it as a portion of the revenue, but would keep a separate and distinct account of it.

18. I estimate the revenue for 1877 at, at least, 40,000*l.* That amount would more than cover the estimates of expenditure now transmitted for your Lordship's sanction.

19. Among the items of expenditure will be observed the sum of 4,500*l.*, on account of "interest on loan." It is plainly impossible to meet the outstanding liabilities of the Colony in any other manner. To meet them fully, a loan of 100,000*l.* would be required. I have estimated the interest at 4½ per cent.; but it is possible that, if the creditors of the late Fijian Government are paid in debentures of this loan, these debentures may, as recommended in your Lordship's despatch of the 29th June, 1875, be made to bear a lower rate of interest.

20. The sum of my recommendations is then as follows:—

(1.) To raise a sufficient loan to meet all liabilities.

(2.) To devote the unappropriated balance of the Imperial advance to its more legitimate purposes of reproductive works, and the formation of a new capital.

(3.) Resolutely to reduce ordinary expenditure.

21. I now proceed to discuss the various reductions in the scheme of Estimates for 1877 now submitted for your Lordship's approval.

The total amount under the head of Establishments is 19,293*l.*; that under the head of services, exclusive of Establishments, is 18,134*l.*; making a total of 37,427*l.*

The estimated Revenue, and it appears to me a safe one, is 40,000*l.*

22. In now proposing reductions of Establishment, your Lordship must distinctly understand that I conceive them to be such as will in almost every case

impair the efficiency of the public service. It is not because I think the posts I shall proceed to name can with propriety be abolished that I recommend their abolition, but because, if it be necessary, and it undoubtedly is so, to reduce the public expenditure, these are the offices which can, in my opinion, be dispensed with with the least injury to the public service.

23. (1.) *The Governor.*—Under this head I can only suggest prospective reductions, and, considering how difficult a task he will have for a long while yet to perform, I have great doubts whether they ought to be made.

24. (2.) *Colonial Secretary.*—I would add to the Colonial Secretary's functions those of Registrar-General.

The third Clerk is principally occupied with native correspondence. If, as I hereafter suggest, such matters are dealt with in a different manner, it is possible that the services of the third Clerk might be dispensed with. Although, when the increase of business consequent upon the addition of the Registrar-General's duties to those of the Colonial Secretary are considered, I can only make this recommendation with doubt and hesitation, and without any positive assurance that I shall find myself able to carry it out.

25. *Receiver-General.*—In this Department I propose no change.

26. *Auditor-General.*—This office in its present form I propose to abolish. If the main functions of the audit are to be performed in London, an experienced accountant at a salary equal to that of the present Audit Clerk will be quite competent to perform such duties as fall to the local Auditor.

As a seat in the Legislative Council is attached to the post of Auditor-General, I propose that this officer be henceforth styled "Government Auditor."

27. *Survey Office.*—My alterations in this office must depend entirely on the view taken by your Lordship of the recommendations with regard to the stay in Fiji of the detachment of Royal Engineers, which I propose to make to your Lordship at an early date, and I therefore suggest no present change.

28. *Post Office.*—The duties of Postmaster at Levuka might be performed by a Serjeant of Police, at a slightly increased salary, say 130*l.* The services of the Assistant Postmaster, though always useful, cannot be said to be incessantly required. It is only on the arrival and departure of the monthly mails that help is indispensable; and I believe that a sum of 20*l.* for occasional assistance to the Postmaster included in the services exclusive of Establishments would be sufficient to procure such aid. It is with much reluctance that I suggest the discontinuance of the district Postmasters.

They cannot, however, be said to be essential to the service of the Government, as I have no doubt the postal service would be carried on as before the beginning of the year, for, in fact, they have never yet been appointed.

29. *Commissioner of Lands and Agent General of Immigration.*—I propose no immediate change in this office, but a prospective saving of 40*l.* might be made on the retirement of the present First Clerk.

30. It is with much regret that I propose the abolition of the office of Government Medical Officer for the Eastern Islands. I cannot, however, say that the office is absolutely necessary. The fact of there being an Assistant Medical Officer will enable the Chief Medical Officer to absent himself occasionally on special duty from Levuka; and if I am able, as I propose, to appoint a medical man to be a Stipendiary Magistrate, I think the post may be temporarily dispensed with, until the finances of the Colony are in a more flourishing condition.

31. *Judicial.*—Under this head I propose very extensive reductions.

If the Chief Justice is to be, as I trust is the case, Judge of Admiralty, Judge of the High Commission Court, &c., the salary cannot be reduced. If he is to be merely Chief Magistrate of a small Colony, it might be reduced to 800*l.*, but this cannot be at once effected.

32. The present Acting Attorney-General is perfectly competent to perform the duties of the office. His services could be retained for his present salary of 500*l.*, with a prospective increase to 600*l.* when the finances of the Colony admit.

33. I have already suggested that the Registrar-Generalship shall be attached to the Colonial Secretaryship, which will effect a saving of 150*l.*

The office of Chief Native Magistrate may, in its present form, be abolished, though it will reappear elsewhere.

34. I propose altogether to abolish the office of Interpreter to the Supreme Court. The amount of interpretation required there has proved to be very much smaller than was anticipated, and could be provided for either by the employment of

one of the interpreters already in the Government service, or by the payment of another interpreter when occasionally required.

35. The duties of Clerk and Interpreter to the Police Court can, I now think, be performed by the same person. A saving of 150*l.* will be thus effected.

36. I most unwillingly recommend the reduction of the Stipendiary Magistrates to the number of four, in addition to the Police Magistrate. This is, in a measure, only practicable, however, if the slight increase of expenditure under other heads is adopted.

If those suggestions be adopted, I would reduce the Stipendiary Magistrates to three at 300*l.* and one at 250*l.* per annum. Though I admit the burden on them will be of some weight, I think that, in the present circumstances of the Colony, the Magistrates must, as formerly, do their own clerical work.

These measures will render necessary some increase in the native magistracy.

37. *Police and Gaols.*—Two Sub-Inspectors, the one at 200*l.*, and the other at 150*l.*, per annum, may, perhaps, be made to suffice, and it might be found possible to dispense with the services of one European constable.

38. *Provincial.*—A large prospective saving may be effected on the salaries of the Rokos. No successor of Maafu need receive more than half the salary enjoyed by that Chief, and proportionate reductions might, in the case of a vacancy, be made in most of the other provinces. But I would most strongly deprecate, as in the highest degree impolitic, any tampering with the remuneration of the present holders of these posts. Their discontent, want of assistance and passive opposition, would cost even in money more than the amount reduced.

39. These charges would involve a reduction of 4,572*l.* on the establishments voted for the present year.

But, if they be effected, certain increases will become necessary. Of these, the most important is that of a Commissioner of Native Affairs.

The duty of this office would be to supervise, advise, and control the native Governors and Magistrates, and to conduct the native correspondence of the Government. He would require to be constantly moving, and must be a man of peculiar attainments and qualifications, possessing not only a perfect knowledge of the language, but also commanding the confidence of the Chiefs and the respect of the people.

Such a man could not be employed under 450*l.* per annum. He will require some native assistance; and, as I have already said, the number of native Magistrates will have to be slightly increased. In connection with this plan it will also be necessary to provide the Rokos with efficient native Chiefs, and for this I have set down a sum of 180*l.*

40. The salary of the Commissioner in the highlands of Viti Levu, who has hitherto drawn salary as a Stipendiary Magistrate, must also be augmented. The net reduction will then only amount to 3,792*l.*

41. That these establishments are still large compared with the present resources of the Colony cannot be denied; but your Lordship does not require to be told that a population more numerous than Trinidad, composed of discordant races, inhabiting islands remote from each other, and two of which are each nearly in area to Jamaica, cannot be governed without considerable expenditure or by a very small establishment.

Nor need I remind your Lordship that, in the early stages of the existence of a Colony, its establishments are always disproportionate to the revenue. Twenty years ago, when the revenue of Trinidad was 76,900*l.*, its establishments cost 48,000*l.* Very nearly the same establishments still suffice, but the revenue has risen to 300,000*l.*

To take a case nearer at hand: I think it will be found that the establishments of New Zealand were, in the early days of that Colony, a yet larger proportion to the total revenue than those of Fiji.

42. The items in my estimate of expenditure, exclusive of establishments, have been carefully calculated from the data at hand, and there are but few which call for special remark.

It is to be observed that the heavy charge, 1,500*l.* a-year, of Cakobau's pension is one which must shortly cease. During his life it would be most impolitic, and, in my opinion, also dishonourable, to attempt its reduction.

43. It is probable that, by the beginning of next year, the demands on the vote for printing, on account of Ordinances, forms, &c., will be greatly diminished; and I

think that more economical arrangements than have hitherto been made may be entered into for carrying out this work. A vote of 600*l.* ought to suffice.

44. The item of 500*l.* for rent is placed on the Estimates on the assumption that it will be necessary to retain the use of all the buildings in Levuka now occupied by the Government.

45. Under the head of immigration I have estimated the expenses of the depôt at 250*l.* This sum is intended to cover merely the primary cost of the establishment, including such items as rent of the premises, wages of the overseer, &c. The actual outlay attendant on the importation of labourers on their return-passage would fall upon a special vote, and be charged to the sum set apart for reproductive undertakings.

46. The sum of 4,500*l.* appears as interest on loan; the amount is calculate at 4½ per cent. on 100,000*l.* It is also, I think, worthy of your Lordship's consideration whether, if some 80,000*l.* or more of this loan of 100,000*l.* is to be issued in the shape of debentures at par to the creditors of the late Fijian Government, it might not be worth while to prevent the exposure in the public market of the small remainder of the loan, which it is not impossible might be taken up on terms which might give some cause for complaint to those who had been compelled to accept debentures at the full nominal value.

47. I must now touch briefly on the alterations, by way of omission, which appear in my Estimates.

Under the head of works I have only provided 500*l.* for the repair of buildings. Many of those now in the occupation of Government are in a disgraceful state. This is the only item I propose to admit into the estimate of ordinary expenditure.

The cost of all new works and buildings I would propose to charge to the fund set apart for reproductive undertakings.

48. The expense attendant on the settlement of claims to land by the Lands Commission should, I consider, be made to fall on the loan, and not on the ordinary current expenditure.

49. I have also omitted to provide for the maintenance of streets, lighting, &c., in Levuka. I propose that a Town Board be created, empowered, under certain restrictions, to levy rates for such purposes. By this means a certain portion of its present work and responsibility would be taken off the hands of the Government—a desirable object in itself, and the general revenue would be relieved of a considerable charge.

50. Nor have I charged the Estimates with a vote for the Board of Health. I would propose that a sanitary rate be raised in each district, to meet the expenses incurred by the Board of Health, and that such rate should be administered by that Board.

51. To make such a scheme practicable, it must be made a first condition that the native population is to be left to govern itself in all minor matters, in accordance with a system of law that it is capable of understanding and administering. The administrative machinery I retain may possibly suffice temporarily for the requirements of the white population, and the Commissioners I propose to appoint will be able to overlook the natives to such an extent as to check serious injustice, and bring about the gradual discontinuance of habits and customs of an objectionable character.

52. One other point yet remains to be touched upon, and that is, the provisions for the carrying out of reproductive undertakings.

53. I now propose to treat of the 48,000*l.* balance from the loan of 1876.

I would propose to devote 25,000*l.* to the carrying on of reproductive works during the year 1877, and would distribute that amount as follows:—

	£
Lands Commission	2,000
Immigration	6,000
Roads	5,000
Seat of Government	6,000
Inter-insular steam service	3,000
Sundry works	3,000
	25,000

54. A balance of 16,000*l.* would be left on hand to be expended during the following year 1878.

By that time it would be only reasonable to expect that the revenue would at least admit of another loan of 50,000*l.* being raised, involving a payment on account of interest of about 2,250*l.* for the continuance of reproductive works.

55. If in the year 1879, after four years of British rule, the circumstances of the country did not begin to show marked improvement, it would, I think, be impossible not to conclude that the fault was either in the country itself, or in the unskilfulness of its administrators.

56. Before terminating this despatch, I must observe that of course it is impossible so long before the close of the present year to pronounce with absolute accuracy what items it may be necessary to place upon the estimate of expenditure, exclusive of Establishments, for 1877.

All that I now wish to do is to submit the broad outlines of my plan to your Lordship's consideration, without absolutely pledging myself to this or that detail, the expediency of which might at a later period appear to be questionable. So long as the object is attained of bringing the expenditure of the year within the income of the year, considerable latitude must, it will I think be admitted, be allowed as to the means by which its attainment is rendered possible.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. GORDON.

Inclosure in No. 55.

ABSTRACT of the Sums required to Defray the Expenses of the Colonial Government of Fiji for the period commencing 1st January 1876, and ending 31st December, 1876.

Establishments.	Fixed Establishments.	Temporary and Provincial.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d
The Governor	3,620 0 0		
Colonial Secretary's Office	..	1,100 0 0	
Receiver-General's Office	..	1,370 0 0	
Audit Office	..	700 0 0	
Survey Office	350 0 0	150 0 0	
Post Office	..	377 0 0	
Commissioner for Lands and Agent General of Immigration	..	940 0 0	
Medical	650 0 0	200 0 0	
Judicial	1,500 0 0	5,648 0 0	
Police and Gaols	..	3,260 0 0	
Provincial	..	3,220 0 0	
	6,120 0 0	16,965 0 0	
Exclusive of Establishments.			23,085 0 0
Pensions	..	1,600 0 0	
Judicial	..	847 0 0	
Colonial Secretary's Office	..	1,675 0 0	
Hospitals	..	975 0 0	
Charitable allowances	..	150 0 0	
Rent	..	475 0 0	
Works	..	14,015 0 0	
Stores	..	550 0 0	
Police	..	2,101 0 0	
Gaols	..	265 0 0	
Treasury	..	15 0 0	
Postal	..	310 0 0	
Customs and Harbour Office	..	601 0 0	
Military	..	917 6 0	
Provincial	..	1,540 0 0	
General Transport	..	75 0 0	
Immigration	..	14,480 0 0	
Steamer "Fitzroy"	..	2,856 0 0	
Miscellaneous	..	7,849 3 9	
			48,296 9 9
Total estimate of Expenditure	..	..	71,381 9 9

Colonial Estimates.—Fiji.

Expenditure.

[The Salaries proposed to be reduced are printed in *italics*, and the Reductions stated in the last Column.]

Establishments Detailed.	Fixed Establishments.	Provisional and Temporary.	Total.	Governor's Reductions.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£
Salaries.—The Governor				
His Excellency the Governor	5,000 0 0			
Private Secretary	300 0 0			
Aide-de-Camp	170 0 0			
Private Interpreter	150 0 0			
	5,620 0 0			
Less 2,000*l.* returned by his Excellency . ..	2,000 0 0			
		..	3,620 0 0	
II.—*Colonial Secretary's Office.*				
Colonial Secretary and Receiver-General . ..	..	500 0 0		
First Clerk and Clerk of Council	..	250 0 0		
Second Clerk	..	200 0 0		
Third Clerk	..	*150 0 0*	..	150
			1,100 0 0	
III.—*Receiver-General's Office.*				
Clerk of the Treasury	..	200 0 0		
First Clerk of Customs and Shipping-master ..	..	250 0 0		
Second Clerk and Bond-keeper	..	150 0 0		
Third Clerk	..	150 0 0		
2 Boarding Officers, at 150*l.* each	..	300 0 0		
Custom-house Officer, Suva	..	70 0 0		
Harbour-master	..	200 0 0		
Light-keeper	..	50 0 0		
			1,370 0 0	
IV.—*Audit Office.*				
Auditor-General	..	*500 0 0*	..	500
Clerk	..	200 0 0		
			700 0 0	
V.—*Survey Office.*				
Surveyor-General	350 0 0			
Clerk and Interpreter	..	150 0 0		
			500 0 0	
VI.—*Post Office.*				
Colonial Postmaster	..	250 0 0		
(*Reduced to*)	..	*130 0 0*	..	120
Assistant	..	*85 0 0*	..	85
District Postmasters (7)	..	*42 0 0*	..	42
			377 0 0	
VII.—*Commissioner of Lands and Agent-General of Immigration.*				
Commissioner, &c.	..	500 0 0		
First Clerk	..	240 0 0		
Second Clerk	..	200 0 0		
			940 0 0	
VIII.—*Medical.*				
Chief Medical Officer	350 0 0	..		
Government Medical Officer for Eastern Islands ..	*300 0 0*	*50 0 0*	..	350
Assistant Medical Officer	..	150 0 0		
	650 0 0	200 0 0		
			850 0 0	
IX.—*Judicial.*				
Chief Justice	1,000 0 0			
Clerk	..	200 0 0		
Attorney-General	500 0 0	*250 0 0*	..	250
Police Magistrate and	..	350 0 0		
Registrar-General	..	*150 0 0*	..	150
Chief Native Magistrate	..	*120 0 0*	..	120
Registrar, Supreme Court	..	240 0 0		
Interpreter, ditto	..	*200 0 0*	..	200
Clerk to Attorney-General	..	150 0 0		
Clerk to Police Court	..	150 0 0		
Interpreter to ditto	..	*150 0 0*	..	150

Establishments Detailed.	Fixed Establishment.	Provisional and Temporary.	Total.	Governor's Reductions.
	£ s. d	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£
Bailiff, &c.	..	100 0 0		
4 Stipendiary Magistrates, at 300*l.*	..	1,200 0 0		
(*Reduced to* 3 *ditto*)	..	*900 0 0*	..	300
4 Stipendiary Magistrates, at 250*l.*	..	1,000 0 0		
(*Reduced to* 1 *ditto*)	..	*250 0 0*	..	750
Commissioner for the Interior	..	100 0 0		
18 native Magistrates	..	288 0 0		
8 *Clerks of the Peace*	..	*1,000 0 0*	..	1,000
			7,148 0 0	
X.—*Police and Gaols.*				
Superintendent of Police and Prisons	..	300 0 0		
Clerk	..	50 0 0		
Gaoler and Sub-Inspector	..	250 0 0		
1 Sub-Inspector, at 200*l.*	..	200 0 0		
3 Ditto, at 150*l.*	..	450 0 0		
(*Reduced to* 1 *ditto*)	..	*150 0 0*	..	300
1 Sergeant	..	125 0 0		
8 European Constables, at 105*l.*	..	840 0 0		
(*Reduced to* 7 *ditto*)	..	*735 0 0*	..	105
2 half-caste Constables, at 75*l.*	..	150 0 0		
250 native Constables	..	750 0 0		
1 Warder to Gaol	..	70 0 0		
1 half-caste Warder, at 75*l.*	..	75 0 0		
			3,260 0 0	
XI.—*Provincial.*				
Roko Tui Lau	..	600 0 0		
„ Cakaudrovi	..	360 0 0		
„ Tai Levu	..	340 0 0		
„ Bua	..	220 0 0		
„ Macuata	..	220 0 0		
„ Rewa	..	200 0 0		
„ Kadavu	..	200 0 0		
„ Nadroga	..	100 0 0		
„ Ra	..	100 0 0		
„ Ba	..	100 0 0		
„ Namosi	..	140 0 0		
111 Bulis	..	640 0 0		
			3,220 0 0	
	1,500 0 0			
			23,085 0 0	4,572
Commissioner	..	450 0 0		
Scribes	..	180 0 0		
Native Assistants	..	150 0 0		
		780 0 0	..	780
				3,792

Expenditure (exclusive of Establishments).

Services.	Item.	Total.	Governor's Reductions.	
	£	£	£	£
XII.—*Pensions.*				
Cakobau	1,500 0 0			
Adi Arieta Kuila	100 0 0			
		1,600 0 0		
XIII.—*Judicial.*				
Jury fees and witnesses' expenses in Crown cases ..	200 0 0			
Coroner's Fees	*40 0 0*	..	40	
Incidentals	*15 0 0*	..	15	
Travelling expenses of Magistrates	502 0 0			
(*Reduced to*)	*225 0 0*	..	367	
		847 0 0		422

Services.	Item. £ s. d.	Total. £ s. d.	Governor's Reductions. £	£
XIV.—*Colonial Secretary's Office.*				
Stationery for all Departments	450 0 0			
(*Reduced to*)	*150 0 0*	..	300	
Printing and advertising	1,200 0 0			
(*Reduced to*)	*600 0 0*	..	600	
Presents to Kai Colos at Navulo	*25 0 0*	..	25	
		1,675 0 0		775
XV.—*Hospitals.*				
Medical attendance	100 0 0			
Clerk and Dispenser, 100*l.*; Nurse, 60*l.*; 4 attendants, 40*l.*	200 0 0			
Clerk and Storekeeper, for Medical Officer, Lau ..	*75 0 0*	..	75	
Provisions	240 0 0			
Bedding and other necessaries	60 0 0			
(*Reduced to*)	*20 0 0*	..	40	
Miscellaneous	300 0 0			
(*Reduced to*)	*200 0 0*	..	100	
		975 0 0		215
XVI.—*Charitable Allowances.*				
Maintenance of lunatics	150 0 0	150 0 0		
XVII.—*Rent.*				
Rent of public offices	475 0 0	475 0 0		
XVIII.—*Works.*				
Inclosing and keeping in order Cemetery	*100 0 0*	..	100	
Repairs to buildings	500 0 0			
Material for lighting, and repairs to streets and bridges in Levuka	*300 0 0*	..	300	
Grant in aid of Stipendiary Magistrates' houses (8 *at* 20*l.*)	*160 0 0*	..	160	
Gaols, Court-houses, and Police Stations in Provinces	*200 0 0*	..	200	
Roads	*10,000 0 0*	..	10,000	
Drainage of Levuka	*500 0 0*	..	500	
Water supply, Levuka	*500 0 0*	..	500	
Powder magazine	*70 0 0*	..	70	
Fireproof vault	*50 0 0*	..	50	
Extension of hospital	*60 0 0*	..	60	
Soldiers' barracks	*650 0 0*	..	650	
Machine shed	*25 0 0*	..	25	
Rest-house for public officers	*250 0 0*	..	250	
Purchase of timber	*50 0 0*	..	50	
Shed for storing timber	*100 0 0*	..	100	
Incidentals	*500 0 0*	..	500	
		14,015 0 0		13,515
XIX.—*Stores, &c.*				
Office furniture	300 0 0			
(*Reduced to*)	*100 0 0*	..	200	
Sundry stores	250 0 0			
(*Reduced to*)	*150 0 0*	..	100	
		550 0 0		300
XX.—*Police.*				
Rations for 250 native Constables, including clothing and allowances	2,000 0 0			
(*Reduced to*)	*1,700 0 0*	..	300	
Travelling expenses, police and prisoners	50 0 0			
Ditto, Superintendent	36 0 0			
Incidentals	15 0 0			
		2,101 0 0		300
XXI.—*Gaols.*				
Rations for prisoners, including clothing and allowances	200 0 0			
Medical attendance at prison	50 0 0			
Incidentals	*15 0 0*	..	15	
		265 0 0		15
XXII.—*Treasury.*				
Incidentals	15 0 0	15 0 0		
XXIII.—*Postal.*				
Freight on mails	250 0 0			
Incidentals	60 0 0			
(*Reduced to*)	*20 0 0*	..	40	
		310 0 0		40

Services.	Item. £	s.	d.	Total. £	s.	d.	Governor's Reductions. £	£
XXIV.—*Customs and Harbour Offices.*								
2 Boats' crews	36	0	0					
Rations for same	50	0	0					
Incidentals	15	0	0					
Extra Boarding Officer	50	0	0					
Repairs to boats	150	0	0					
(*Reduced to*)	*60*	*0*	*0*	..			90	
Purchase of boats	150	0	0					
(*Reduced to*)	*100*	*0*	*0*	..			50	
Buoys and beacons	150	0	0					
(*Reduced to*)	*100*	*0*	*0*	..			50	
				601	0	0		190
XXV.—*Military.*								
Colonial pay, 62 men at 6*d.* per diem, 567*l.* 6*s.*; 1 officer at 200*l.*, and 1 at 150*l.*	917	6	0	917	6	0		
XXVI.—*Provincial.*								
Re-settlement of natives now at Koro	*40*	*0*	*0*	..			40	
Expenses incident to the collection of native taxes ..	1,500	0	0					
				1,540	0	0		40
XXVII.—*General Transport.*								
Travelling expenses of Commissioner of Lands, Surveyor-General, and other officers travelling on duty, at 7*s.* 6*d.* per diem	50	0	0					
Incidentals	*25*	*0*	*0*	..			25	
				75	0	0		25
(*To be replaced by*) *General transport*	*200*	*0*	*0*					
XXVIII.—*Immigration.*								
Expenses connected with depôt	180	0	0					
	250	*0*	*0*	..			250	
Ditto returning foreign labourers	*7,000*	*0*	*0*	..			7,000	
Introduction of immigrants	*7,000*	*0*	*0*	..			7,000	
				14,480	0	0		14,250
XXIX.—*Steamer "Fitzroy."*								
Master and crew	1,206	0	0					
Insurance	300	0	0					
Coals	750	0	0					
Sundry stores	250	0	0					
Food and rations for crew	350	0	0					
				2,856	0	0		
XXX.—*Miscellaneous.*								
Remittance on account of amount due for interest to Bank of New South Wales	*100*	*3*	*9*	..			100	
Interest on account Bank overdraft (Fiji Bank) ..	*25*	*0*	*0*	..			25	
Interinsular steam service, 6 months at 300l. ..	*1,800*	*0*	*0*	..			1,800	
Marine Survey	*350*	*0*	*0*	..			350	
Lands Commission	*2,500*	*0*	*0*	..			2,500	
Discharged soldiers' pensions (to be recovered from the War Office, and credited Miscellaneous Revenue)	54	0	0					
Miscellaneous Medical Fees	20	0	0					
				4,849	3	9		4,775
Total	..			48,296	9	9	..	34,662
Interest on loan	..			..			..	4,500
Total	..			..			..	30,162
General transport	..			..			..	175
Total	..			..			..	29,887

Estimates for 1876—	£	Reductions, 1877—	£
Establishment	23,085	Establishments	3,792
Services	48,296	Services	30,162
	71,381		33,954

	£
Estimates, 1876	71,381
Reduction, 1877	33,954
Estimated expenditure for 1877	37,427

Notice.

His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to direct that the following Postal Tariff be substituted from this date for the Tariff hitherto in force in this Colony:—

Postal Tariff.

LETTERS.

I.—*Town Letters.*

	s.	d.
For delivery within the limits of Levuka, not exceeding half-ounce	0	1
Every additional half-ounce, or fraction of half-ounce	0	1

II.—*Inland Letters.*

Not exceeding half-ounce	0	2
Every additional half-ounce or fraction of half-ounce	0	2

III.—*Intercolonial Letters.*

New South Wales—Not exceeding half-ounce	0	2
Every additional half-ounce, or fraction of half-ounce	0	2
New Zealand, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia—not exceeding half-ounce	0	6
Every additional half-ounce, or fraction of half-ounce	0	6

IV.

New Caledonia, Tonga, Samoa—not exceeding half-ounce	0	6
Every additional half-ounce, or fraction of half-ounce	0	6

V.

All British Colonies, including India, other than Australian Colonies and Foreign Countries not specified—not exceeding half-ounce	1	0
Every additional half-ounce, or fraction of half-ounce	1	0

VI.

United Kingdom and Europe, viâ Melbourne and Brindisi—not exceeding half-ounce	1	3
Every additional half-ounce, or fraction of half-ounce	1	3
United Kingdom and Europe, viâ Melbourne and Southampton—not exceeding half-ounce.	1	0
Every additional half-ounce, or fraction of half-ounce	1	0
United Kingdom, Europe, and America, viâ San Francisco—not exceeding half-ounce	1	0
Every additional half-ounce, or fraction of half-ounce	1	0

VII.

Registration fee	0	4

VIII.

Newspapers, one penny each to all parts—no exception for the Colony itself.

IX.—BOOKS AND PACKETS.

Town and Inland—not exceeding two ounces	0	1
Every additional two ounces, or fraction of two ounces	0	1
Foreign (United Kingdom, &c.)—not exceeding two ounces	0	9
Every additional two ounces, or fraction of two ounces	0	9

By his Excellency's command,
(Signed) ARTHUR ELIBANK HAVELOCK,
January 3, 1876. *Colonial Secretary.*

No. 56.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(*Received July* 18.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, June* 7, 1876.

IN my despatch of the 6th May,* I had the honour to report the occurrence of disturbances in the Island of Viti Levu.

2. The information which I have obtained from Mr. Commissioner Carew and other sources, as to the present posture of affairs, is to the following effect:—

3. The tribes of Na Gali Mari, a portion of the tribe of Miya Koro, the small

* No. 50.

tribes known collectively as the Ruwai Levu, and the town of Nibutantau, seem to be the only parties to the late outrages. All the other tribes of the interior, Christian and heathen, profess allegiance to the Government, and readiness to assist in the punishment of the offenders, who have taken refuge for the most part in the towns of Bukusia, Lookia, Naqaqa, Vatuvosola, Nibutantau, and Tavua i Colo, and the villages adjacent to them.

4. In my former despatch I informed your Lordship that I had gone to Nadi (from whence I wrote), to concert with Mr. Carew the measures necessary for the restoration of order and the punishment of those who had disturbed it.

5. After consultation with Mr. Carew and others, the following plan of operations was determined on.

6. It is intended that the trained and drilled police force, now encamped at Nasaucoko, should be replaced there by men from the eastern islands, and that the police so relieved should march to Nadi, proceed from that place by water to Ba, whence they will march to Nadrau, a friendly town in the interior at the head of the Sigatoko River.

Nibutautau, which is in the immediate vicinity of Nadrau, will be summoned to surrender the criminals who have taken refuge there, and, in case of refusal, that town will be at once occupied by the police.

The force will then march down the course of the Sigatoko River, occupying on its way every village which has not previously given in its adhesion to the Government.

The force stationed at Nasaucoko will prevent the escape to the west of any fugitives from the villages so occupied by the police, and the loyal tribes of the Wai, in Mala and Namosi, organized by Mr. Carew, will equally prevent flight to the hill country in the east.

A considerable body of men under Roko Tui Nadroga, drawn up on the Sigatoka opposite Lookia and Bukusia, bars egress thence to the coast.

7. A glance at the accompanying map will show your Lordship the relative position of the different localities which I have just mentioned, and render the proposed plan of operations more thoroughly intelligible.

8. Above Beimana to the east, in the direction of Namosi, the country is hilly and covered with forest, and the tribes of the lower part of the river, who have taken the most active part in the present struggles, have expressed their intention of taking refuge in this region when worsted by the Christian tribes, and of keeping up hostilities for an indefinite time from these mountain strongholds.

By commencing operations from the north this danger will be avoided, and the disaffected tribes will be driven down to a point where, hemmed in by the different co-operating bodies of police and tribal auxiliaries, the capture of those who have not previously submitted will be inevitable.

9. It appeared to me that the slight amount of risk involved in a journey to Nasaucoko was fully justified by the advantage likely to be derived from a personal interview with some of the loyal mountain Chiefs, and the encouragement which my visit would give the force. I accordingly went there, a journey of two days, on foot. At the mountain village of Waiwai, where I passed the night, I was met by an escort from the fort, and reached it without molestation.

10. The country through which I passed consisted for the first twelve or fourteen miles of open rolling plains covered with grass, thinly dotted over with *Pandanus*; here and there, in the neighbourhood of villages or watercourses, clumps of trees are to be found. The hills then rise somewhat suddenly, and at the height of about 2,000 feet above the sea is an extensive plateau, from which higher mountains spring. Clumps of wood become more frequent, and at a distance of twenty miles inland, the country, although not uniformly covered with forest, as is the case in the eastern part of the island, is decidedly well wooded. The highest pass crossed was about 2,500 feet by the barometer, and the highest of the surrounding mountains were probably about 1,500 or 2,000 feet higher.

11. Nasaucoko itself is situated in a fine broad and fertile valley, into which the waters of the plateau leap in two magnificent cascades.

The fort is strong for a native place. It is surrounded by an earthen wall about seven feet high, plentifully loopholed, and surmounted by a palisade. Outside the wall is a deep ditch, beyond which is another palisade. A third palisade surrounds the place at a distance of about sixty or seventy yards.

The river here flows in such a manner as to form a large peninsula, of which Nasaucoko is nearly the centre, and the whole of the ground between the fort

and the river has been cleared, and is now a flourishing garden of bananas, sweet potatoes, and other food plants.

12. At Nasaucoko, I met and had much interesting conversation with Kolikoli, the Chief of the important town of Beimana, and some other leading mountaineers.

Kolikoli informed me that, after the meeting at Mavola, he had convened a meeting of all the mountain tribes on the Sigatoko, and had announced that, so far as he was concerned, the declarations of the Government appeared to him considerate and acceptable, and that he thought the agreement come to good, and intended to abide by it. The principal Chief of Naqaqa, Kolikoli added, had followed him in the same strain, and all had seemed to go well, until Mudu, Chief of the Gali Mari, rose to speak. He said that he was of another mind, that he hated Christianity and the Government, and that he only came to the meeting in the hope that Kolikoli had called them together to concert measures for an immediate attack on the camp at Nasaucoko. Bisiki, another mountain Chief from the small village of Na Moli, but a man of great influence and energy, took the same side, and the meeting broke up in confusion.

13. Subsequently, each of the tribes had separate meetings of their own. At Beimana itself, Kolikoli's personal influence was sufficiently strong to prevent open hostility, but an opposition party existed which has, until lately, prevented his active support of the Government. That party has, however, after an attempt, within the last few days, to assassinate Kolikoli, been completely worsted, and he is now free to help us.

14. At Naqaqa, the head Chief and his brother made speeches urging obedience, but Mudu, who was present, spoke in an opposite sense, and carried with him a majority of the tribe. At Gali Mari, Mudu had, of course, no difficulty in obtaining a decision according to his own wishes.

15. After returning to Nadi, I walked across the country to Nadroga. My walk occupied three days, in the first of which I came into closer contact with the Kai Colo than had been anticipated, or than was altogether prudent.

While at supper in the village of Katuma, we saw the neighbouring village of Vakula, about a mile off, burnt by the mountaineers. Of course, an attack upon the village we were in—a very small one—was apprehended, and we watched all night, but no assault was made.

16. On the next night, I slept at Tanwau, a large native town on the Tovu River. This town is better situated than any Fijian town I have yet seen. It is not walled, and its houses and gardens are scattered amongst very fine trees, whilst for miles around the country is cultivated with the greatest care, neat storehouses for the bananas and yams being placed at regular intervals through the fields and gardens.

From this town, it is but a short walk to Cuvu, the chief town of Nadroga.

17. With the exception of the district about Tanwau, the country traversed by me between Nadi and Nadroga was, generally speaking, bare and open, and is but thinly peopled. It is, apparently, better adapted for pastoral purposes than for agriculture.

18. At Nadroga, I saw the Roko Tui, Ratu Luki, on whom I impressed the absolute necessity that no forward movement should be made by him until he received intelligence of the approach of the police from Nadrau, as any premature action on his part against the towns of Lookia and Bukusia would, if successful, scatter their occupants, who would then either take refuge in mountain retreats, where it would be difficult to dislodge them, or else would be driven back upon the loyal district of Beimana, which, before the arrival of the Nadrau force, we might be unable efficiently to protect.

19. I have left my private Secretary, Mr. A. Gordon, with the Roko Tui Nadroga, both to keep him constantly in mind of this injunction, and also to secure the harmonious co-operation between him and the Roko Tui Namosi and the Bulis of Serua and Vatu Karasa, among whom mutual jealousy prevails. In the event of a collision his presence will not been the less useful to restrain the excesses which a force of so irregular a character, if not under vigilant control, may not improbably be disposed to commit. This, in my opinion, is the weakest part of the combined movement, and, unless great dispatch is shown in the advance of the Nadrau force, I fear it may be impossible to restrain some injudicious act of impatience on the part of these forces.

20. All the Rokos, Bulis, and other Chiefs have shown the greatest alacrity

and willingness in their assistance to the Government, and when the affair is over I shall have to bring the names of some among them specially to your Lordship's notice.

21. Since writing the greater part of this despatch I have received the inclosed letter from the Roko Tui of Ba and Yasawa, reporting the surrender of the Naqaqa tribe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 56.

Sketch.

Inclosure 2 in No. 56.

Sir, *Sagunu, May* 26, 1876.

I WRITE with reference to my messenger (Mata) which I sent to Naqaqa. When he returned the people of Naqaqa accompanied him down; they came and sued for peace.

They are now residing at Sagunu. They arrived here on Thursday the 25th of May.

Again we have made all preparations, we have reviewed our forces, and all you spoke to me about is being fulfilled by us.

We are now waiting for the soldiers' accoutrements.

My love to you.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PENI YANI VUKI.

His Excellency the Governor of Fiji,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 57.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, July* 22, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 7th ultimo,* and to convey to you my approval of the measures which you have taken in consequence of the recent disturbance in Viti Levu.

I am glad to observe that you continue to be confident that the disturbance will not extend beyond the small area to which it has hitherto been confined.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

---

* No. 56.

The lines of mountains merely indicate the watershed of the country.

Towns burnt by Kuilolo _____. *Hostile Towns* _____. *Route* ..... .

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FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RELATIVE TO THE

COLONY OF FIJI.

(In continuation of [C. 1624], August 1876.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
July 1877.

LONDON:
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Further Correspondence relative to the Colony of Fiji.

No. 1.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(*Received August* 18.)

(Extract.) *Nasova, Fiji, June* 21, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of Mr. Commissioner Carew's report of his proceedings subsequent to my meeting with him at Nadi on the 6th ultimo.

* * * * * *

Captain Knollys, with the trained police force, has removed from Nasaucoko to Sagunu, and has by this time reached Nadrau.

Mr. Le Hunte has taken charge of Nasaucoko with a garrison composed of men from the Provinces of Bua Macuata and Nadi.

Mr. Gordon, with the Nadroga Auxiliaries, has taken three large and some smaller villages held by the Kai Colo, including the important position of Bukutia.

A number of towns of the Nuya Koro tribe, suspected of being unfriendly, have given in their adhesion to the Government.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Sir, *Nadi, June* 10, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward the following report for the information of his Excellency the Governor.

I embarked on board the Government steamer "Fitzroy" at Nadi on May 8 for Levuka, arriving on the 10th.

On the 11th I procured cloth to the value of 25*l.*, as a present from his Excellency to the Chiefs of Waiminala and Naqarawai, and left on the following day for Bau, where I informed Roko Tui Taihevu of the objects of my intended journey to the interior of Viti Levu, and "asked him to send a Mata in vauna" to accompany me for the purpose of presenting the "tabuas" and cloth to the tribes, to endeavour to procure their co-operation in quelling the outbreak at Nuya Koro on the Sigatoka River.

A delay of three days took place at Bau owing to the difficulty of procuring a "Mata in vauna" willing to accompany me on what they considered a dangerous expedition.

I left Bau on May 15, arriving at Rewa on the same evening, and called on the Roko Tui Rewa and other native officials of that province, arriving at Navuso, Naitasiri, on the 16th, where I procured another "Mata in vauna" to accompany me, leaving Navuso on the 17th and arriving at Korovatu, Matailobau, on the evening of May 18.

On the 19th the Chiefs of Nuya Malo, Dawarau, Nacau, and Naqarawai arrived by appointment, when I stated informally the objects of my visit, and asked them to assist by using their influence with their connections at Nuya Koro at the head of the Sigatoka River, and to compel them to throw down their arms, and submit to the Government.

This they readily agreed to do, promising to use force if necessary, but at the same time declaring they had but to speak to obtain submission at once.

I then held a meeting at which the Nai Lega tribes were present, and explained matters generally in relation to government, which gave evident pleasure to them.

On the 20th I held a Commissioner's Court for the trial of several men fo. manslaughter, and reported in my despatch of May 20, 1876.

On Monday the 22nd I left, arriving at Naivuciui, a village of the Nacau or Vatusila people, where the chief Naca in Kalou requested my intervention in a dispute with the Matailobau tribe in connection with boundaries, which I did by requesting all parties to allow the matter to stand over unti lI have time to make inquiries about it.

On the 23rd I arrived at Tavua on the Waiqa branch of the Wainimala, and at Waibasaga, the chief village of Dawarau, on the next day; I here explained the new order of affairs to a considerable number of people who assembled to meet me.

On the 25th I reached Narokorokoyawa at Nuya Malo, and was formally received by the Chiefs of Waiminala and Nagarawai, to whom I explained the action of his Excellency the Governor in placing their districts without the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, and his reasons for so doing; also my appointment powers, and extent of the same, asking them to remember the promise of their Chiefs now dead, given unsolicited at Navuso, when they agreed to the annexation of their country to Great Britain.

In answer to their question I informed them that no taxes would be required from those living in districts remote from the sea-coast for some time, possibly for five years, and also that their report to me of the action of Roko Tui Taileou in requesting them to meet at Soloira for the purpose of coming to some understanding with reference to taxation or an equivalent therefor, should be reported at the same time, assuring all parties that no person had any right whatever to interfere with them in any way but the Governor or myself, his Excellency's Commissioner.

I requested the tribes to present to me yearly in a formal manner one large yam from each village, as an earnest of their recognition of the rule of Great Britain, and that I would present the yams to his Excellency, in accordance with custom, to which demand they agreed at once.

There were also present by invitation two Chiefs of Nuya Koro, nearly related to the Waiminala tribes, and named Ro-bota-na-bua (Taukei-na-buto) and Nabiri, of the villages of Nabuto, and Matauabilalevu respectively, and situated on the Wainavua, a small stream which flows into the Wairoro branch of the Sigatoka at Vunatawa, and nearly opposite to Naqaqa at Nuya Koro, and about eight miles below Tavua-i-colo, the village occupied by the Nabutautau people.

On the following day, the 24th of May, the "tabuas" and cloth were formally presented, and received in the "rara" of the village; and at a consultation held afterwards the Chiefs informed me that they were closely related to the Nuya Koro tribe, and that they could not refuse them shelter if they fled to them, but they professed annoyance at their bad behaviour lately, adding that their interests were identical with those of the Nuya Koro, and moreover they had to rely on those people for supplies of pigs and native cloth, and they were most decidedly opposed to severe measures, deeming it sufficient if they only ceased fighting, and made promises of amendment for the future.

They agreed, however, to endeavour to persuade them to surrender unconditionally in terms of the Governor's demands, and presented "tabuas" to me for the protection of the Nuya Koro "Katikati" (non-combatants), should any fall into our hands, which I promised to observe most faithfully; but they endeavoured to persuade me to accompany them, which I declined, giving as my reason for not doing so, that I felt it necessary to leave at once for the various Government camps for the purpose of insisting upon every care being taken of "Katikati" in terms of their desire expressed on the presentation to me of the "tabuas."

I also told the Nuya-malo and other tribes that the only objection to the reception by them of the non-combatants was, that the malcontents would be able to prolong the hostilities if freed of the presence of their "Katikati," and that I would offer no further objection, as they were closely allied, to their going to them; but that if they should decline to hand over to me the ringleaders, the Government camp, which would be continued, would prove an effectual obstacle to the return of any of their party to Nuya Koro at any future time, and as this was exactly what the Wainimala tribes professed to be so anxious not to have brought about, as it interfered with their barter business, I recommended it to their consideration.

On Monday the 29th I left Narokorokoyawa at Nuya-malo for Naqarawai,

arriving in the afternoon, it having been decided that the tribes were to leave for Nuya Koro on the following day.

At Naqarawai I found the people pleased at my visit, and generally well-disposed to the Government, but the old Chiefs having died during the epidemic of measles both here and at the Wainimala, the "Mata in vaunas" at both places were usurping as much as possible the authority of the young Chiefs, who are in the main well-disposed.

On the 30th May I left Naqarawai, having previously learnt that the Namosi tribe had left for Nadroga to join Mr. Deputy-Commissioner Gordon, viâ Navola; this I am inclined to consider an unfortunate circumstance, as I had intended they should occupy Namoli, the village of Nabisiki, the leading spirit of the cannibals of Nuyakoro, and may have been caused by disinclination on the part of Roko Tui Namosi to interfere in that quarter, as Basiki stands to him in the relation of uncle by his mother's side, and he is therefore "vasu" to him.

Proceeding down the Wai-ni-veisama, head of the Navua River, by a difficult route, I arrived at Nuku, the country of the Batie-wai tribe, who were dispossessed under Cakobau's Government, but re-installed by order of his Excellency the Governor at Navola.

On the following day I left for Denba, arriving in the evening, and after a delay of two days, caused by the difficulty of procuring a boat, I proceeded down the coast to Serna and Navola, thence to Vatukarasa, and thence inland, arriving at Nawalili, the camp of the Nadroga, Serua, and other tribes, occupied in watching the cannibals of Bukutia and Korovatuma, where I met Mr. Deputy-Commissioner Gordon.

After a consultation it appeared clear to me that it was necessary to attack the above-named villages, so I called a meeting of the Chiefs, and gave them permission to attack, as it was probable that any further extension of the period of inactivity was likely to have a bad effect on the spirit of the men, if not actual disaffection amongst our auxiliaries of Kowinasau, and other minor tribes.

I then wrote to Captain Knollys, Deputy-Commissioner at Nasaucoko, proposing that as Nadrau was not as yet occupied by him it might be advisable for him to make a demonstration in the direction of Naqalimari, and thus put a stop to the reinforcement by them of Bukutia and Korovatuma, and make the task of taking them more easy to the men under Mr. Gordon.

On the 6th of June I left Nadroga Camp for Cuou, Nadroga, arriving in the afternoon, and left before daylight for Nadi, reaching here at night, and finding a letter from Captain Knollys awaiting me in answer to mine from the Nadroga Camp, informing me of his intended immediate departure from Nasaucoko for here to embark for Ba, thence to ascend to Nadrau to commence operations against the Nabutoutau people.

Captain Knollys has since arrived here with the police, and after a consultation, as it appeared that the Ra and Ba men are awaiting his arrival at Ba, and that the Nadrau men were in expectation of his joining them, and would be subjected to annoyance from the cannibals, if not jeopardy, I have acceded to his desire that the original plan be carried out of attacking the malcontents from a position at Madrau, leaving Nasaucoko in occupation of our coast auxiliaries and of those now immediately expected from Vanua Levu.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WALTER S. CAREW,

Resident Commissioner for Colo.

The Colonial Secretary,
Levuka.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

Sir, *Nadi, June* 12, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform you, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that I have this day received a despatch from Mr. Deputy-Commissioner Gordon, to report that on Wednesday last, the 7th instant, the auxiliaries composed of Nadroga, Serua, Koroinasau, and other smaller tribes, attacked and took the cannibal village of Korovatuma; the neighbouring village Bukutia was at once deserted by its inhabitants.

Mr. Gordon informs me that he has caused the destruction of all walls, &c., and the filling-in of the trenches, so as to render these villages incapable of being

defended should the people return hereafter, during the absence of his men, to reoccupy them.

In conclusion, Mr. Gordon reports that he is preparing to attack Matanavatu, another stronghold of the cannibals, and trusts to be in occupation thereof on the 14th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER S. CAREW,
Resident Commissioner for Colo.

The Colonial Secretary,
Levuka.

No. 2.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received August 18.)

My Lord, *Sagunu, Fiji, June 23, 1876.*

THE number of villages burnt during the present operations against the Kai Colo has caused me much uneasiness.

2. It is, no doubt, in many cases necessary, for strategical reasons, to destroy villages which might be re-occupied; and, as the burning of a town was, in former Fijian wars, the invariable sequel in all cases to its capture, it is not easy to induce the leaders of a Fijian force to restrain the practice. Moreover, the difficulty of preventing it is increased by the fact that the materials of which the houses are constructed are so inflammable, that a single lighted brand applied to one building is often enough to ensure the destruction of a whole town. Nevertheless, although I may be obliged to acquiesce in what is in many cases clearly inevitable, I cannot describe the pain and distress which the systematic destruction of the villages of a whole district causes me. This feeling will, I am sure, be shared by your Lordship, and, I think I may venture to add, the Queen also.

3. I cannot absolutely forbid the practice without too greatly fettering the conduct of the present operations, but I have issued the Memorandum respecting it, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, and which will at least ensure thought and reflection before an order to burn a town is given.

Of this Memorandum I make no doubt your Lordship will approve.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. GORDON.

Inclosure in No. 2.

Memorandum.

HIS Excellency has remarked that, in all previous military operations undertaken in Fiji, it has been the practice, almost as a matter of course, to burn every town belonging to an unfriendly tribe, after its occupation by the Government forces, whether it may have offered resistance or not.

This practice is one at variance with the usages of civilized warfare, and is not unlikely to lead to results of a nature to be greatly deprecated. His Excellency, therefore, wishes it to be understood that it is his distinct orders that no town should be burnt without strong reason; and that, wherever it is possible, reference should be made to him before the intention is carried into execution.

This will, no doubt, in some cases, be impracticable; but, where it appears indispensable that a town should be at once burnt, a written Memorandum, explaining the grounds which rendered such immediate action necessary, must be prepared and signed, previously to the burning of such village, by the officer directing it.

Such Memoranda are to be forwarded with the officer's Report of his proceedings.

(Signed) A. H. G.

No. 3.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received August 18.)

My Lord, *Nadi, Fiji, June 24, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that since the date of my despatch of the 21st instant,* I have received intelligence of the capture of the Kai Colo town of Matanavatu, the speedy fall of which was anticipated by Mr. Gordon when he wrote the letters, extracts from which were inclosed in my previous despatch.

I now inclose an extract from a private letter from Mr. Gordon, reporting this success.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. GORDON.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Matanavatu, June 18, 1876.

YESTERDAY the rock fortress of Matanavatu was taken by Ratu Luki and a small number of men from various tribes. The attack was unpremeditated on our side and unexpected by the rebels. The result was a thorough rout of the latter, thirty-eight killed and ten prisoners (one man, six women, and three children). I regret to say that we lost the Buli of Mololo (Ratu Na Vu), shot through the head, and one Namosi man, who was shot by accident by some of his own people.

From the prisoners we learn that Basiki and Mudu were both in the fortress at the attack.

The rebels have fled to Bociwa, a Qalemari town quite close to this.

I do not doubt our being able to take all the Qalemari towns; but there is no one to stop the runaways at the other end. On the other hand, my force would, I fear, dwindle to something very inefficient if kept long waiting—by long, I mean a week.

I hope to hear some news of Knollys soon.

I trust you are well and pretty comfortable at Sagunu. Here we are eaten up by flies, and I shall not be sorry when the affair is over.

Believe me how much I feel for and think of you in this wretched business, and pray God that we may all be guided right, and that your work in this land may prosper.

The Governor, Levuka.

No. 4.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received August 18.)

My Lord, *Cuvu (Thuve), Nadroga, Fiji, July 1, 1876.*

IN my despatch of the 24th ultimo,† I informed your Lordship that the mountain fortress of Matanavatu had been taken by Mr. Gordon on the 16th ultimo. It is with great satisfaction that I have now the honour to report to your Lordship that since that date the cannibal tribes of the Sigatoka, whose murderous raids upon the Christian villages in the vicinity of that river and on the frontiers of the Province of Nadi have been described by me in previous despatches, have been entirely subjugated. The whole of their towns and strongholds have been occupied or destroyed by the auxiliary force under Mr. Gordon; the tribes themselves have surrendered at discretion; above 800 prisoners have been taken; a great number of arms have been captured; a severe retribution has overtaken the instigators of the disturbance, and all danger of further outbreaks in this region has been conclusively terminated.

2. I have the honour to inclose Mr. Gordon's Reports of his proceedings since the commencement of the troubles. Your Lordship will, I think, be struck by the modesty of their tone, and will not, I am sure, think the less highly on that account of the services rendered by their writer. He has kept together for nearly two

* No. 1. † No. 3.

months a wholly undrilled and undisciplined native force of over 1,200 men belonging to different tribes, and commanded by Chiefs suspicious and jealous of each other. He has conducted the operations of that force with uniform success, and has prevented the smallest interruption of harmony between the different Chiefs and tribes of which it was composed—a result impossible of attainment without the exercise of tact and skilful management.

3. Out of the great number of prisoners taken, thirty-seven known to have been concerned in the commission of murder and other grave offences were selected for trial before the Assistant Commissioner of the district under the provisions of Ordinances No. 16 of 1875 and No. 18 of 1876.

The trial took place at Na Sigatoko on the 29th ultimo. One of the accused was acquitted for want of proof, one case was postponed for further inquiry, and in thirty-five instances guilt was either admitted or proved by witnesses, and sentence of death pronounced. Fifteen of the culprits were recommended to me for mercy by Mr. Gordon, and in these and five other instances I felt myself able to commute the punishment to which they had been condemned, But in fifteen cases I deemed it necessary to confirm the sentence which had been passed upon them.

4. One of the convicts contrived to escape during the night. The remaining fourteen were, by my direction, executed yesterday morning. The record of the proceedings of the Commissioner's Court will be transmitted to your Lordship as soon as it has been properly transcribed. Meanwhile I inclose a nominal list of those executed and a statement of their offences.

5. In acting as I have done, I am aware that I have incurred grave responsibility. It is a responsibility from which I do not shrink, and which, in the circumstances, it was, I think, incumbent on me to assume.

6. The difficulties with which Captain Knollys has to contend in his advance from the north will no doubt be materially diminished by the events which I have just narrated, and it now only remains that his operations on the Upper Sigatoka should be attended with the same success which has crowned those of Mr. Gordon on the lower part of the river to remove all apprehension of a future renewal of similar troubles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. GORDON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 4.

Laqere Levu, opposite Matanavatu, Sigatoka River, Head-Quarters
Sir, *Nadroga Auxiliary Force, June* 19, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt this day of your letter of the 9th instant, conveying a request from his Excellency the Governor that I should furnish you with weekly reports of the proceedings of the auxiliary force under my orders.

2. As I have already fully communicated the nature of my movements up to this time to Mr. Carew, the Resident Commissioner, and as I had the honour of meeting you personally at Cuvu on the 12th instant, I deem that it will not be necessary for me to do more than recapitulate briefly the operations which took place prior to the latter date.

3. Before doing so, however, I think it only due to the Chiefs of the various tribes of which my force is composed to state that I confine my powers among them entirely to the general direction of movements, the preservation of harmony and good-will, and the enforcement of the wishes of the Governor with regard to the treatment of prisoners, &c. The detail of attack and defence I leave to the judgment of the Chiefs themselves, so that I cannot claim any credit for the various successes that have attended our movements.

4. At the latter end of April, and shortly after the first outbreak of the Mountaineers and the massacre of the Christian inhabitants of the Batiri villages, I was instructed by the Governor to raise the above-mentioned force in conjunction with Captain Olive. This we proceeded to do, and before Captain Olive returned to his duties at Levuka, a considerable number of men had been collected and sent to form a camp on the Sigatoka River. This camp was established at Navalili, on the right bank of the Sigatoka River, and about ten miles above the Sigatoka native town. The force as it now exists is composed of the Taba ni Vonu, Bati ni Vanua,

and Vua Seria, Nadroga tribes, under the command of Ratu Luki, the Roko Tui, and the various Bulis of that district; a detachment of 125 Namosi men, commanded by Matanitabua, the Roko Tui of Namosi; a large number of Serua men under Qaqa Bokola, Buli of Serua; small detachments from Navola, Vatukarasa, and the Islands of Malolo and Vatulele, under Bulis Manumanunivudi, Vakayavanuku, and Ralu Na Vu respectively; and, lastly, a friendly mountain tribe from Koroinasau, commanded by their Chief, Ra Balabala. This force amounts to the number of somewhat over 1,000 fighting men.

5. I joined the camp (Navolili) on the 23rd ultimo. The Kai Colo at that time were occupying in considerable force two strongholds (Bukuta and Korovatuna) on the opposite side of the river, and about four miles in a direct line from our front; while on our left, at a distance of about six miles, were situated (close to the river, and on the same side as Bukutia) Mavua, Korokula, and Navala—three combined towns not half a mile apart from each other. From these towns, backed by Bukutia and Korovatuma, marauding parties were in the habit of making raids upon the Nadroga boundary towns and plantations. The Kai Colo were, as we ascertained, busily engaged in fortifying these positions with strong palisades and earthworks.

6. As the taking of these latter places would relieve the Nadraga district from all immediate danger, and also open to us a large supply of food, I decided to attack them, and on the 25th ultimo they were taken by assault, and destroyed by my orders, the cannibals flying after a short resistance to Bukutia. In this action three of our men were wounded, the loss to the canibals being two killed and many wounded.

7. My orders at this time were to refrain from attacking Bukutia or Korovatuma, and as I found no small difficulty in restraining the force from doing so, it was necessary to keep the men fully employed, and as a means of doing so I gave permission to the Chiefs to endeavour, when opportunities offered, to cut off marauding parties of the Kai Colo, and also where possible to obtain food from their plantations.

8. In taking advantage of this permission the Serua men, with those from Koroinasan fell in, on the 31st ultimo, with a war party from Qalimari and Korovatuma, apparently on their way to attack the Serua camp.

The Qalimari were driven back over the range of hills which lies between Navalili and their districts, and the Korovatuma people fled to their stronghold, closely pursued by a portion of the Serua band, which, like the cannibals, had separated into two parties when the attack began. In this affair one Serua man was killed and his body captured and eaten by the cannibals, the Kai Colo losing three men and one woman; and seven were wounded by our men, but escaped capture. The woman killed was a noted priestess and fighting woman of the Qalimari tribe.

9. On the 3rd instant Mr. Carew arrived at Navalili from the Wai ni Mala, and gave me permission to attack Bukutia and Korovatuma, and to advance the camp towards Qalimari as far as Matanavatu, another stronghold of the Kai Colo, about four miles above Manua, on the left bank of the river.

10. On the 7th instant Korovatuma was attacked and fell into our hands close upon sundown, the cannibals flying to Bukutia, which place they abandoned during the night, and on the morning of the 8th I gave orders for both places to be destroyed. From their position it would have been useless, and, with our numbers, impossible, to hold these places, a high range of mountains lying between them and the next object of our attack.

In the taking of Korovatuma our loss was three killed and two wounded, while of the cannibals four were killed, twenty wounded, and one prisoner (wounded) taken.

11. I next gave orders to attack Matanavatu, and the whole camp moved up to this place on the 14th instant, and that evening attacked and took the town situated at the foot of a high, rocky, and wooded stronghold, which rises above it, and to which the cannibals in very large numbers fled. Two of the Kai Colo were wounded, but we suffered no loss.

12. The next day we attacked and drove the Kai Colo from another town at the foot of the opposite side of the rock. We here obtained a good supply of food, but not without a sharp skirmish, in which two of the cannibals were badly wounded, and carried off by their friends. There was no loss on our side.

13. On Saturday the 18th instant the rock fortress itself fell into our hands

with quantities of food and plunder. The cannibals taken by surprise fled in great confusion to Qalimari.

From the amount of food stored up in the fortress it is evident that this place was considered impregnable, and that the Kai Colo were prepared for a long siege.

I regret to announce the loss on our side in this engagement of Ratunavu, Buli of Mololo, who was shot through the head while gallantly leading his men to the assault. The Kai Colo lost no less than thirty-eight killed and ten prisoners.

14. All the cannibal towns on this side of the Qalimari territory are now in my hands, and I only await instructions from Nasaucoko to make an upon attack upon Qalimari itself, whither all the refugees from the various towns already taken are congregated.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON,

Deputy Commissioner, Colo.

The Colonial Secretary,
Levuka.

Inclosure 2 in No. 4.

Sir, *Langere Levu, opposite Matanavatu, June* 24, 1876.

I AM happy to say that I am now able to report the complete overthrow of the whole of the Qalimari tribe and the destruction of their towns and strongholds.

Mudu and the other principal Chiefs of the Qalimari tribes, the Chiefs of all the other tribes in revolt south of Qalimari, and a very large number of other prisoners, together with some 200 muskets, have fallen into our hands.

2. Having received permission from Mr. Carew to proceed against the Qalimari "with the utmost activity," I commenced operations on the 21st instant by driving the enemy from all the towns (mentioned in the margin*) bordering on the river.

This was successfully done with a loss to the enemy of one man killed (a notorious priest of their war spirit), three men on our side being slightly wounded.

3. On this day we effected a junction with reinforcements sent from Nasaucoko and Beimana respectively; and while the Nadroga force returned to Laqere Levu for the night, the reinforcements were ordered to encamp to the north of the mountain range of precipitous hills, thickly covered with forest, of which the Qalimari territory chiefly consists.

4. During the night I received intelligence that the enemy, or at all events a certain number of the principal ringleaders, had surrendered at discretion to the Chief of Beimana.

5. Owing, however, to an unfortunate misapprehension, arising through native jealousies, Mudu and a larger number of those surrendering were induced to go over to the Nadi district, thereby frustrating a prearranged plan with Kolikoli (Chief of Beimana), by which I had hoped to capture the whole of the enemy at Beimana.

6. Fortunately, however, being warned in time, search parties were sent in several directions to the Nadi border towns and elsewhere, whose researches, as I will hereafter mention, were attended with entire success.

7. In the meantime, having occupied the now deserted Qalimari strongholds of Qorogorovakatini, Na Koro Levu, and Korovu Solo, in which places the enemy had abandoned enormous quantities of stored food, Kolikoli handed over to me such of the refugees as had escaped to Beimana, and in the course of the 22nd a large number of prisoners, with their wives and children, were brought in from other places to which they had fled.

8. The 23rd was also successfully spent in searching the country for refugees, and to-day, Mudu, with a band of followers, was captured by the Tabani Vonu tribe at Nagogo, a Christian village in the Nadi district.

9. I am very glad to be able to report the uniform forbearance and even kindness with which the prisoners are treated by their captors. In one case only have I been obliged to interfere and save a man from what at the worst, however, only amounted to mockery, and which was to a certain extent excusable from the fact of his being recognized by the Nadrogans as one who had in a former skirmish

* Koro-i-ra, Bocuiva, Qwaiga, Wakuku, Kueuvi.

deliberately taken aim with his musket at their Chief, who escaped only by a hair's breadth, the ball killing a high Chief (Buli Malolo) who stood close behind him.

When the former cruel usages of Fijians towards prisoners are recollected, it speaks volumes for the real change which Christianity has effected in the habits of the people, and the real hold which it possesses on them, that even at a time of such intense excitement there should have been no return to practices still in vogue among their heathen countrymen.

10. As the work for which the auxiliaries in this district were called together is now happily finished, I propose to return to the coast as soon as possible, having due regard to the safe custody of the prisoners already captured, and the further search for those who still remain hidden in the caves of the mountains and the villages of the adjacent country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. E. HAVELOCK, *Colonial Secretary.*

To the Colonial Secretary,
Fiji.

Inclosure 3 in No. 4.

Sir, *Nasigatoka, July* 1, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report that the auxiliary forces under my command moved down to this place on the 27th ultimo, bringing with them 357 prisoners with their wives and children, amounting in all to 848 souls.

2. The women and children were at once distributed for safe custody, according to their tribes and families, among the several Nadrogan towns mentioned in the margin.*

3. His Excellency the Governor arrived at Cuvu by the Government steamer "Fitzroy" on the 25th ultimo, and proceeded on the 28th to this place.

4. Thirty-seven of the prisoners, including the principal instigators of the outbreak, and those who had rendered themselves specially notorious by murder and cannibalism, were tried before me on the 29th ultimo, as Assistant-Commissioner, under Ordinances No. 16 of 1875 and No. 18 of 1876, with respect to the judicia administration of districts exempted from the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. Of these thirty-five were condemned to death, one acquitted for want of sufficient evidence, and one case postponed for further investigation.

Fifteen of those sentenced to death I recommended to the Governor's mercy, and in these and five other cases his Excellency was pleased to commute the penalty pronounced to one of imprisonment. In fifteen cases, however, the sentence was confirmed by his Excellency and carried into execution yesterday morning, except in the case of Tabuavua, a professional poisoner, who escaped during the night.

5. So soon as the records of the proceedings of the Court can be fairly copied it shall be forwarded to you. In most cases their guilt was distinctly admitted by the prisoners, and in those cases where it was denied it was clearly proved by the testimony of witnesses.

6. After the execution, the male prisoners were sent to the different villages where their wives and children had already preceded them, there to await his Excellency's further orders.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON,
Deputy Commissioner for Colo.

The Colonial Secretary,
Levuka.

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* Vona, Naruku, Tamvau, Nasama, Cuvu, Naidiri, Yadua, Vona, Sigatoka, Vatukarasa, and Vuivuitoa.

Inclosure 4 in No. 4.

Name.	Charge.	Plea.	Remarks.
Mudu	Conspiracy to murder	Guilty ..	This Chief was with Na Nisiki, the chief promoter of the outbreak. Present at the murder at Na Waga.
Ulunigili	Murder	Ditto ..	Murdered Tamuse, Nuati, and Nimaiwali (a woman and two children), at Na Waga.
Reba	Ditto	Ditto ..	Confessed to his share in attack on Nadi towns.
Cavanago .. .	Ditto	Ditto ..	Admits that he was a professional assassin.
Nabuavua	Ditto	Not guilty ..	Escaped.
Tewasau	Ditto	Guilty ..	Chief of Tavuni; directed attack on Batiri towns.
Raitono	Accessory to murder..	Ditto ..	A leader in the assault on Batiri.
Onesair	Murder	Not guilty ..	Proved by evidence. This man was a noted cannibal, and by his own avowal ate nearly the whole body of Josia, one of the attacking party killed at Koro Vatuma.
Savisavirra . ..	Accessory to murder..	Guilty.	
Gege	Treason	Ditto ..	This man was Buli Wai Cobo, and joined the insurgents whilst still in receipt of Government pay.
Matalau	Murder	Ditto ..	Murdered a woman and child at Batiri.
Na Vatu .. .	Ditto	Not guilty ..	Proved by witnesses to have killed a man at Batiri.
Na Walu	Ditto	Guilty ..	Killed a child at Batiri.
Tasere	Ditto	Ditto ..	Killed a woman at Batiri.

No. .

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(*Received August* 18.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, July* 5, 1876.

IN my despatch of June 7th* I gave your Lordship a sketch of the proposed plan of operations against the disaffected tribes of the interior, and in my despatch of the 21st instant† I informed your Lordship that, in pursuance of this scheme, Captain Knollys, with the drilled police force, left Nasaucoko on the 10th ultimo for Sagunu and Nadrau, and had been relieved at Nasaucoko by Mr. Le Hunte, with a mixed force of Buans and men from Macuata.

Captain Knollys and his force proceeded by sea from Nadi to Sagunu, and marched thence for the interior on the 17th ultimo.

These proceedings are fully detailed in the official and private letters, copies of which are inclosed.

2. When at Sagunu, on my way to Nadroga, I received from Captain Knollys on the 21st ultimo the private letter of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, and on my return voyage I received at the same place, on the 2nd instant, his further letters of the 23rd and 28th ultimo, copies of which I also inclose.

The latter is one of considerable interest, and reports the capture of Nabutautau.

3. Captain Knollys had not then received intelligence of Mr. Gordon's success against the Qalimari, which will no doubt greatly aid Captain Knollys' operations.

4. Having under his command a comparatively drilled and disciplined force, Captain Knollys will, I trust, be able to occupy the enemy's towns, and only in a few cases find it necessary to direct their destruction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. GORDON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 5.

Sir, *Sagunu, Ba, June* 16, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform you, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, of my movements since I left the Resident Commissioner at Narewa, Nadi, on the 14th instant. I embarked on that day at Nadi on board the steamship "Star of the South," with 130 men belonging to the Fiji armed constabulary for conveyance to Tawarau; we met the Government steam-ship "Fitzroy" soon

* No. 56 of C. 1624 of 1876. † No. 1.

after leaving Nadi and went along side of her. She had on board Mr. Wilkinson, Chief Interpreter to the Government, and 133 men from Vanua Levu.

I selected twenty men of these, from Macuata, for duty with the constabulary and transshipped to the "Star of the South," transshipping at the same time sixty stand of Snider rifles with corresponding accoutrements sent from Levuka for the use of the constabulary.

I also requested Mr. Wilkinson to accompany me as far as Nadrau.

We arrived at Tawarau on the evening of the same day and landed the constabulary, ammunition, and baggage, but being too late, we were unable to proceed further on that day.

On the following morning we marched to Sagunu, a distance of ten miles.

On arrival I found about 230 armed men and a large number of carriers assembled, also food prepared for our march to Nadrau.

I am informed that the Nadrau men are awaiting for our arrival in order to render all assistance in their power.

From information I have received here, I am of opinion that neither Nabutautau nor the Nuya Koro tribes on this side of the River Sigatoka will offer much opposition; of those on the other side of the river I am unable to give much definite information.

I intend to leave Sagunu to-morrow morning and march as far as Narata, where we shall remain until Monday, and we shall probably reach Nadrau on Tuesday.

I have, &c.

(Signed) L. F. KNOLLYS, *Deputy Commissioner.*

The Colonial Secretary,
Levuka.

Inclosure 2 in No. 5.

Sir, *Nasaucoko, June* 22, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant.

In accordance with your instructions therein conveyed, I have the honour to make the following report to you:—

I arrived here on the 29th ultimo, and placed myself under the orders of Captain Knollys, A.D.C., Commandant, &c., whom I found there.

As Captain Knollys has already reported to you the proceedings which took place between the date of my arrival and his departure, I trust you will not consider it necessary for me to repeat them.

On the 8th instant Captain Knollys left with all the police force, except twenty-four, some nine of whom were unfit for duty from sickness. He left me in charge of the camp here, with the necessary instructions for the conduct of such quasi-military duties as are necessary here. The total force in camp after his departure was as follows:—

Auxiliaries:—Police 24, Nadi 43, Sabeto 19, Vuda 15; total 101 men.

On the 8th instant I heard through a brother of the Chief of Beimana, that Mr. Deputy Commissioner Gordon was attacking Bukutia, a town in Ruwailevu district, having taken Koro Vatuma.

On the 9th, being extremely short of food, I sent twenty men with Nemani's men to get food from Koro Vutia; they returned the same day.

On the 13th Koli Koli, the Chief of Beimana, came to pay me a visit. He assured me of his loyalty to the Government. I am indebted to this Chief for keeping me constantly supplied with information as to the respective movements of the force under Mr. Gordon and his enemies in Ru Wai Levu. I repeated to Koli Koli the message I had sent to him and to the people in the other friendly towns in this neighbourhood, viz., that should the non-fighting people from the enemy's side take shelter in his town, he should receive them and take care of them. I presented him with some trade, and he returned to Beimana that night.

On the 13th I was informed that the men from Naqaqa, whose real or pretended "soro" to Roko Tui Ba has been before reported to you, had gone down the previous night to assist the Ru Wai Levu people against the Government forces there. I may here mention that I have been informed that they returned to Naqaqa on the 26th, having with them the body of a man, one of two killed by them the previous day; they had buried the other, and were carrying this one home to eat.

These two men belonged to the district over which Roko Luki, Bulu Koroba, rules. They, in company with many others from Roko Luki's district, had been staying in the Ru Wai Levu towns, and on the approach of the Nadrogan allies, fled back to their own districts.

On the 17th the Resident Commissioner, Mr. W. S. Carew arrived here. A force of 91 Bua men, 20 Macuata men, and 5 police, his boat's crew, accompanied him, thus raising the total force here to 217 men.

Several of these men had arrived at Nadi without any arms, and Mr. Carew gave them the few good muskets that chanced to be in store at Na Rewa, in company with several useless ones. A good many of their own muskets that I have inspected are of such a character that I can hardly call them good ones.

I venture most respectfully to say that I regret that so many men left Levuka for the purpose of defending this place without the precaution being taken to see that they had a sufficient supply of serviceable arms. I should have forborne mentioning this were it not the case that it is difficult to keep the supply of food, which is of necessity very large, needed here being brought up regularly; and men without arms are a useless burden on us at any time, but especially so when our supply becomes, as it was until two days ago, decidedly limited.

As Mr. Carew has reported to you to-day all the events of interest that have occurred since his arrival, I presume it would be unnecessary for me to repeat them in this letter.

I take the liberty of here requesting that the various supplies for which I have already, through an unofficial channel, sent a requisition, may be sent here as soon as possible.

I have neither soap, candles, oil, cloth, or money belonging to the Government, and all of these are absolute necessities.

The small private supply of cloth and money belonging to Mr. Carew and myself having already been placed at the disposal of the Government, it is advisable to send some further supplies here for the service of the Colonial Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. RUTHVEN LE HUNTE,

The Governor, Levuka. *Deputy Commissioner, Colo.*

P.S.—I ommitted to mention that, in consequence of the increased force, I have sent five old men back to their homes at Nadi, also one Sabeto man. The total force is therefore 211 men.

G. R. LE H.

Inclosure 3 in No. 5.

Sir, *Nasaucoko, June* 22, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward the following report for the information of his Excellency the Governor:—

On the 14th instant, Captain Knollys, A.D.C., Deputy-Commissioner for Colo, embarked on the steam-ship "Star of the South" at Nadi with the police to the number of about 120 men, and proceeded to Ba with the intention of going to Nadrau with the auxiliaries under Roko Tui Ra and Roko Tui Ba to act against the cannibals of Nabutautau.

On the same day the ship "Fitzroy" arrived at Nadi with 119 men from Vanua Levu to be employed in occupying the camp at Nasaucoko.

On the following day, the 15th, I served out the whole of the ammunition, or about four rounds each per man, and prepared to start for the camp next day.

On the 16th June we started from Nadi, reaching Nasaucoko on the 17th, where I found Mr. Le Hunte, Deputy Commissioner.

On the 19th I dispatched some of the men to Wala and Tatuba to bring food, obtaining a good supply of yams, &c., and received a communication from Mr. Deputy-Commissioner Knollys to tell me he would arrive at Nadrau with the police and auxiliaries on the 19th or 20th, and also a letter from Mr. Gordon stating that the men under his orders were becoming dispirited, and were anxious to bring matters to a close and to return to their homes, and asking for further instruction.

In reply, I recommended that they should continue the fighting.

On the 20th June I received a note from Mr. Gordon, informing me that the

men under his orders had taken Matanavatu by surprise, killing thirty-eight of the cannibals and taking some prisoners, with loss on the Government side of Ratu Navu, Buli Malolo, shot dead during the attack.

Mr. Gordon again repeats the information that his men are becoming weary of remaining so long from their homes, and I have recommended him to push matters forward as rapidly as convenient.

On the 21st, hearing that an attack was about to be made on the villages of Ruwailevu by Mr. Gordon's auxiliaries, I sent 110 men to assist, and they have not yet returned.

But a rumour has reached me that all the cannibals' villages below Beimana have been captured, and that the inhabitants have fled; and I am hourly expecting to hear from Mr. Gordon in confirmation of this rumour.

In conclusion, I have the honour to state that I expect a visit to-morrow from the Chief of Wai ni Mala, who have now for some time been occupying the village of people of doubtful loyalty in the Nuya Koro district.

They continue to send me repeated assurances of loyalty to the Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WALTER S. CAREW,

The Governor, Levuka. *Resident Commissioner for Colo.*

No. 6.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received September 12.)

My Lord, *Nasaucoko (Na Sowthoke), July* 18, 1876.

THE period being now close at hand for the completion of the combined operations for the subjugation of the cannibal tribes, the nature of which was explained in a previous despatch, I thought it expedient to repair to this central position in order that there might be no delay in settling the various questions which are likely to call for immediate solution when the hostile operations in this district are concluded.

2. The loss of the steamer "Fitzroy," reported in another despatch, has deprived me of the means of returning with any expedition to Ovalau after the restoration of order, and it is not now improbable that I shall be unable to arrive there before the departure of the English mail.

3. I therefore write this despatch to account for what your Lordship might otherwise consider my negligence in failing to write as usual.

4. All is going on well here, and in another week, by which time Captain Knollys will have reached this neighbourhood, I shall consider the disturbances as completely at an end.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. GORDON.

No. 7.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, September* 20, 1876.

I HAVE received your despatches, noted in the margin,* in which you have informed me of the operations conducted against the disaffected tribes in Viti Levu.

2. I have learned with much satisfaction the success which appears to have attended the movements of the native forces under the command of Mr. Gordon and Mr. Knollys, resulting, as you report, in the comple subjugation of the cannibal tribes, whom it had become necessary to punish.

3. I trust that these operations will be found to have permanently secured the great object in view in preventing a recurrence of hostile raids by the Kai Colos upon the Christianized tribes, and in ultimately bringing this heathen and barbarous race within the pale of civilization.

4. With regard to the principal incidents connected with Mr. Gordon's proceedings, viz., the burning of several of the native villages, and the execution of

* Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

fourteen prisoners, I can only observe that, however much such measures are to be regretted, I am ready on the faith of your assurance, and from the confidence which I have uniformly reposed in your consideration of natives interests, and your fairness in all dealings with the native races, to believe that there was no alternative, and that severe as the course adopted was, it was fully justified by the necessities of the case. In some instances, at least, the villages appear to have been fortresses, and, whilst sharing your regret at their destruction, I see no reason to doubt that Mr. Gordon was right in destroying them.

5. With regard to the executions, I understand that the capital sentence was in each case awarded for actual murder proved to have been committed; and such being the case, I am quite ready to approve the course taken. It is right that I should note as an act, which is only to be justified by the exceptional circumstances of the time, and which, therefore, must not be accepted as any precedent that the prisoners should have been tried by Mr. Gordon, as he was the officer who conducted the operations against them.

6. On this point, however, it is only right that I should await the additional returns which you have promised, and which are essential to a full and complete understanding of the case. I will only add that, as at present advised, I am fully disposed to believe that the proceedings now under my consideration were both judiciously conceived and ably carried out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 8.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, September* 20, 1876.

THERE is one part, and that a very important one, of the subject referred to in my despatch of this day's date,* as to which I am desirous of receiving some further explanations than any which have as yet reached me, whether through public or private channels of information.

2. I do not understand why, in operations of so extensive a character, where such large forces were engaged, and where such great interests were at stake, I see no mention made of advice tendered, concurrence given, or assistance afforded on the part of the officer in command of the troops. Under ordinary circumstances, and in other Colonies, whenever it might unfortunately become necessary to resort to operations partaking more of the nature of a war than of a mere attempt to quell a civil disturbance (and such, indeed, is the description of those hostilities given by yourself and the officers concerned), it would, unless for some strong reason, clearly be in the natural course of official duty that the Governor should, before actually engaging in hostilities, fully communicate on the subject with the Chief Military Officer. It was in a great measure on account of the possibility of troubles with the cannibal tribes that it was decided to send a military force to Fiji, and I have naturally sought in your despatches for the opinion of Major Pratt as to the conduct and execution of these operations. In the absence of any such opinion it is impossible to deny that a serious responsibility was incurred. Happily, no failure occurred to mar the success of the expedition; on the contrary, so far as I can judge, the operations were conducted with ability, vigour, and judgment, and the Kai Colos have, I doubt not, received a lesson which may save much future bloodshed and trouble. There must, however, have been a considerable element of uncertainty in the military dispositions and results, when Mr. Gordon, in his despatch of the 19th June, whilst writing with becoming modesty of himself, says, that as regards the details of attack and defence, he left it to the judgment of the Chiefs, and could not therefore claim credit for the various successes. In such a case it must be remembered that failure would have involved much more than the defeat of a few Fijian Chiefs; it would have compromised the whole Government, and have made absolutely necessary the employment of the troops under very unfavourable circumstances.

3. I wish, therefore, to understand the reason why you did not communicate with Major Pratt on this subject, if I am right in concluding that you did not do so. At the same time I request you to believe that I am quite prepared to hear that you had some distinct and valid reason for taking the course which you followed.

* No. 7.

4. It has occurred to me in the consideration of this part of the question that you may have thought it preferable to deal with the matter as one of police jurisdiction rather than of war, and that, for reasons of policy, you intentionally abstained from allowing the operations to assume that military character which would have been inseparable from the employment of Her Majesty's troops, and possibly from your consulting with the officer in command. What, therefore, I desire is, to be supplied with a full exposition of your views and objects, and of your reasons for feeling satisfied that the action taken by you was not liable to such failures and reverses as are too frequently incidental to warfare of this nature, and would in such case have undoubtedly led to serious consequences.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 9.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, September* 20, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 18th of July,* written at Nasaucoko, informing me of the reasons which prevented your writing as usual by the out-going mail.

I am glad to learn that the hostile operations in the district are approaching conclusion, and that you were of opinion that, in another week from the date of your despatch, you would be able to consider the disturbances as completely at an end.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 10.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received October 10.)

My Lord, *Nasaucoko, Fiji, July* 20, 1876.

YOUR Lordship is already aware that I repaired to this place early in the present month in order to be within easy reach of those engaged in the operations for the suppression of the disturbances in the Island of Viti Levu.

2. I have now the honour to inform your Lordship that, on the 15th instant, I received the submission of the whole of the towns of the Nuya Koro tribe, situated on the eastern side of the Sigatoka river, with the exception of Vunamoli, Na Bisiki's own town.

This has been brought about by the pressure of the loyal tribes of the Wai-nimala, who are related to the Nuya Koro, and who have occupied this part of their country on behalf of the Government since the commencement of the troubles.

3. When Captain Knollys has completed the subjugation of the tribes among which he is at present engaged, he will find his operations much facilitated by this submission, as the single district of Naqaqa is now the only one except that where Captain Knollys is at present employed in which the authority of the Government is still openly resisted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. GORDON.

Inclosure in No. 10.

Nabuto.
Naloka.
Naduta.
Takubu.
Vusu.
Sega.
Vavalagi.
Matanabilalevu.
Muanavatu.
Koroilagi.
Nacau.
Navuka.
Vimatawa.
Nasue.
Vosadamu.
Drio Drio.
Nawaruwaru.

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* No. 6.

No. 11.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received October 10.)

My Lord, *Nasaucoko, Fiji, August* 14, 1876.

IT is with extreme satisfaction that I find myself able to report to your Lordship the entire and final suppression of the recent disturbances in Viti Levu, and the restoration of peace, good order, and security throughout the whole island.

2. I have the honour to inclose copies of Captain Knollys' despatches, narrating the progress of his force since the date of those last forwarded by me.

3. From these despatches your Lordship will perceive that on the 12th ultimo, Captain Knollys surprised and took the Naidua Caves, in which the people who had fled from the towns occupied by Captain Knollys had taken refuge; that on the 17th and 18th ultimo he captured the extensive Caves of Lobo-na-koro, containing a large number of prisoners and a considerable amount of arms and ammunition; and that on the 29th ultimo, after a week's desperate resistance, the Caves of Nanuwai, in Nacawanisa, the last stronghold of the cannibals in that district, fell into his hands.

4. On learning that Captain Knollys had thus finished his work in that quarter, and would commence his march down the river on the 1st instant, I, on that day, as previously arranged, set out with Mr. Le Hunte and a force of 120 men from the garrison at Nasaucoko, in order to meet him in the Naqaqa district. We slept that night at Wala—a fortified Christian town in the plain which, at the beginning of the troubles, resisted a two days' siege from the mountaineers. The next day we moved up the mountain to Vatula, the chief town of the Naqaqa district, which we found abandoned, and where we were that night joined by Captain Knollys with a small escort, and next day by the main body of his force, about 600 in number. Vatula is built on the ridge of a chain of mountains, at this point about 1,800 feet in height, but attaining a much more considerable elevation. It is surrounded by subsidiary villages of picturesque appearance, nestled among rocks and trees; some of them situated at the bottom of deep glens, and various others perched in clefts and on platforms of rocks on the hill-sides.

5. We remained ten days at Vatula, making arrangements for the return of the forces to their homes, the trial of the prisoners, and the future government of the country.

6. On the 8th instant the trial of the principal prisoners was commenced by Mr. Commissioner Carew, who had joined us from Nasue. Seventy-five persons were brought up for trial; of these four were acquitted, fifty-two were sentenced to periods of imprisonment, varying from one year to five, and eighteen received sentence of death. In ten cases I commuted the capital sentence to one of imprisonment for five years, and in two cases to imprisonment for ten years, but in six cases I confirmed the sentence pronounced by the Commissioner, and it was carried into execution on the same day.

7. I inclose a list of those executed. A copy of the record of the trial will be forwarded by next mail. While the trial of Na Besoki, the Chief of Vunimoli (who, along with Mudu, was the chief author of the late troubles), was in progress, a desperate attempt to escape was made by the prisoner. It was so far successful that he reached the outskirts of the town, but he was fired on by the constabulary, and shot dead before he could attain a secure hiding-place in the bush.

8. On the 10th instant the auxiliary force from Ba, Nadrau, Tavua, and Ra were dismissed, and went home direct from Vatula. The same day, I and the whole force left Vatula for this place.

9. It is my intention to-day to quit Nasaucoko on my return to Levuka, and to-morrow the remainder of the auxiliary force will leave for Nadi, to be conveyed to Levuka, and then to their respective provinces. Owing to the loss of the "Fitzroy," I have been obliged to charter the "Star of the South" for the purpose at a cost of 50*l*., an expenditure of which I trust your Lordship will approve, for it could not be avoided.

10. I have left Mr. Le Hunte in command of the garrison of Nasaucoko, with orders to occupy but not to destroy the various towns which have sent in their submission, and to capture those of the cannibals from Vatula, who may still, for some time to come, lurk in the woods about the Mountain of Moqudu, although all serious resistance has terminated.

11. I regret to have to inform your Lordship that Mr. A. Gordon is suffering from severe and serious illness, brought on by exposure, fatigue, and want of food during the attack of the Caves at Nanuwai.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. GORDON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 11.

Sir, *Sagunu, Ba, June* 16, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform you, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, of my movements since I left Narewa, Nadi, where the Resident Commissioner was then staying, on the 14th instant, I embarked on that day at Nadi on board the steamer "Star of the South" with 130 men belonging to the Fiji armed constabulary for conveyance to Sawarau.

We met the Government steamship "Fitzroy" soon after leaving Nadi and went along side of her; she had on board Mr. Wilkinson, chief interpreter to the Government, and 133 men from Vanua Levu.

I selected twenty men of those from Macuata for duty with the constabulary, and transferred them to the "Star of the South," transshipping at the same time sixty stand of Snider rifles, with corresponding accoutrements sent from Levuka, for the use of the Constabulary.

I also requested Mr. Wilkinson to accompany me as far as Nadrau.

We arrived at Sawarau on the evening of the same day, and landed the constabulary, ammunition, and baggage, but, being too late, we were unable to proceed further on that day.

On the following morning we marched to Sagunu, a distance of ten miles.

On arrival at that place I found about 230 armed men and a large number of carriers assembled. There was also food prepared for our march to Nadrau.

I am informed that the Nadrau men are waiting for our arrival in order to render all assistance in their power.

From information I have received here, I am of opinion that neither Nabutantau nor the Nuya Koro tribes on this side of the river Sigatoka will offer much opposition; of those on the other side of the river I am unable to gain much definite information.

I intend to leave Sagunu to-morrow morning and march as far as Narata, where we shall remain for Sunday, continuing our march on Monday. We shall probably reach Nadrau on Tuesday the 20th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. F. KNOLLYS, 32*nd Light Infantry,*
Deputy Commissioner.

The Colonial Secretary,
Levuka.

Inclosure 2 in No. 11.

Sir, *Naveiyaraki, Nabutantau, June* 29, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report to you, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, my movements since my letter dated the 16th instant.

2. I left Sagunu on the 17th instant with the whole of the armed constabulary under my command, and about 200 armed men from Ba, 30 from Ra, and a large number of baggage carriers.

3. We remained for Sunday at the end of our first day's march, and did not reach Nadrau till Wednesday morning, much delay having been caused by the baggage.

4. We were most warmly received by the Buli and people of Nadrau, who appeared much relieved at our arrival, considerable doubts having apparently existed in their minds as to the support they would receive from the Government against the Cannibal tribes around them.

5. I regret to inform you that seven men from Nasolo, in the Ba district, who were following us to Nadrau, having arrived too late at Sagunu to accompany us, were attacked on the 21st instant, at a place about three miles in our rear, and that two of them were fatally wounded and died before efficient aid could be sent

to them. The perpetrators of this murder came from Vaturavi, a town of the Nacawanisa tribe.

6. I immediately sent for the Chief, Dakulevu by name, and, as he could not give a satisfactory account of the matter, and appeared to be untrustworthy and dangerous, I detained him a prisoner.

7. I have since discovered that he has been instrumental in causing much mischief in this part of Viti Levu, and has persuaded several of the neighbouring Chiefs of the Nacawanisa tribe to acts of rebellion.

8. We left Nadrau on the 26th instant, our force being augmented by a considerable number of Nadrau men, and arrived near this town of Naveiyaraki at about mid-day.

9. The town was occupied by its inhabitants and some men from Naqaqa. I was in hopes of capturing some of the inmates, but, owing to the eagerness of the Ba men, the lower part of the town was taken before I could get the men in a position below the town, on the river, to cut off fugitives.

10. Very little resistance was offered, a momentary stand being made near a small stone fence at the entrance of the town, and again on a steep rocky eminence on which a portion of the town is built. No casualties occurred to the force under my command, and I believe, only two of the cannibals were wounded.

11. The town is of considerable size, about thirty houses, and has large gardens of good cultivation. Signs of recent cannibal feasts were abundant, and there can be little doubt that some of those killed in the present disturbances have been eaten here.

12. We are now remaining in the town, as I am inclined to believe that the Nabutantau tribe are thoroughly disheartened, and that they are likely to offer submission at an early date.

13. A number of men, under Senimaali, from the Naqaqa towns in the neighbourhood of Nasaucoko have come to help the Nabutantau men, and are constantly on the hills surrounding the town.

14. Colaiwasi, Chief of Namaururu, a town of the Vua Qumu tribe, has professed his allegiance to Government, though some of his people are disposed to be troublesome.

15. As Buli Nadrau trusts him, I have used him as a means of communication with the cannibals, and I hope not without results.

16. The next town, Tavua-i-colo, which is empty of its inhabitants, though occupied by some of the Naqaqa men, is within a mile of us, but I have not garrisoned it, as I have thought it convenient to leave it as a place for the cannibals to congregate in. I hope to be able to capture some of them there, the town, meanwhile, can be occupied whenever I desire, as its present inhabitants leave it on the slightest movement on our part.

17. I am sending directions to the Deputy Commissioner at Nadroga, only to move forward so far as is necessary to keep his force employed; and to the Deputy Commissioner in Nasaucoko, to watch the movements of the cannibals in his neighbourhood and protect the friendly towns.

I believe that by deliberate movements and quiet occupation the disturbed portion of Viti Levu will be placed on a satisfactory footing much sooner than by any hasty action.

I have, &c.

(Signed) L. F. KNOLLYS, *Lieutenant, 32nd Light Infantry, Commanding in Colo.*

The Colonial Secretary,
Levuka.

Inclosure 3 in No. 11.

Sir, *Nabutantau, July* 9, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report, for his Excellency's information, the progress of events in the mountains since the date of my letter of the 29th ultimo.

On the 30th ultimo, the Chief of Tavua showed an inclination to surrender, but he was unfortunately frightened while on his way here by a foraging party, and has fled to a town lower down the river, where I have great difficulty in opening communication with him.

On the same day, Tawase, an escaped prisoner from Levuka Gaol, burned Na Bara, a town of Nabutantau, in which he has been living, and fled into the bush.

This town consisted of about twenty houses, and probably contained about 150 inhabitants.

On the 1st instant, a foraging party was attacked by a body of the cannibals, from 150 to 200 strong, when getting food from the gardens belonging to Na Bara.

A running fight lasted for some time, but no casualties occurred in the force under my command, and only one cannibal was wounded, probably fatally.

On the 3rd July I received a message from Na Bila, a town of Nabutantau, that the inhabitants had returned to their town and would await orders from me.

I also received a message from the Chief of this town, Na ver yaraki, that he would fight as long as he lived; by this I understand him to mean that he will continue to hide in the bush. He also intimated that any future messengers sent to him would be put to death.

On the same day I took two parties out to endeavour to surprise the cannibals in the mountain bush and to surround them.

One party came on them in a temporary village in the bush, but they succeeded in escaping with the greater part of their property.

On the 4th instant, Nagusudrada and Nabukatavatava, with some others, brought whales' teeth and a present of maize, to be allowed to "soro."

The former, who is one of the most powerful Chiefs of Naqaqa, stated that he represented Bale Mai, Vatula, Mata Walu, and the other Maya Koro towns on that side of the river, in fact, all those that have not sent in their submission through the people of Wai-ni-Mala.

I believe these towns to be in earnest with regard to their desire to submit, but their professions can only be received with great distrust.

I ordered them to return to their towns and await my instructions, and also to communicate immediately with Mr. Carew, at Nasaucoko.

Whilst these Chiefs were here, information arrived that the people of Wai-ni-Mala had burnt one of their towns, and had destroyed a considerable portion of the food, prepared, as the Chiefs of Naqaqa state, for the ceremony of their submission.

I have requested Mr. Carew and Mr. Le Hunte to endeavour to check the people of Wai-ni-Mala, as their present action, both in Nuya Kora and Nabutantau, where they are seeking to persuade the fugitives to take refuge in their district, can only be productive of mischief.

The task of capturing the people of Nabutantau is one of great difficulty.

The country is by far the most mountainous I have seen in Fiji, and has, in parts, thick bush. The people are savage and wild, and are on the alert on the slightest movement made by my force.

From their superior agility, and also from their knowledge of the country, escape is easy to them, unless they can be surprised and surrounded.

On the night of the 7th instant I succeeded by a surprise by night in capturing the Chief of Na vei yaraki and a number of women who were with him, and I trust, through him, to get hold of some of the other fugitives of Nabutantau.

I have, &c.

(Signed) L. F. KNOLLYS, *Lieutenant, 32nd Light Infantry, Commanding in Colo.*

The Colonial Secretary,
Levuka.

Inclosure 4 in No. 11.

Sir, *Na Veiyaraki, Nabutantau, July* 20, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report, for his Excellency's information, the proceedings of the force under my command since the date of my last letter of the 9th instant.

2. On the 10th a party, whom I had sent out under the Buli of Sagunu, returned, having captured eleven men and a number of women and children.

Amongst the men was the Chief of Vatu Koro, who has been one of the great causes of mischief in the present disturbances.

3. On the 11th I started for Na Dua, a nest of caves close to Biaurua, in the Nacawanisa district, where I had heard that a large party of cannibals had assembled.

We reached Nadrau before nightfall and remained there until the moon rose.

We then started for Na Dua, and, after travelling all night, arrived close to the place at daylight on the following day, the 12th. We then divided our party in order to surround the place, but the cannibals were on the look out and discovered us before our arrangements were complete.

4. A portion of them made off at once across the river. The other portion occupied the caves and rocks, and offered a resistance; six of the cannibals were killed besides a child, was was accidently shot in a cave, and many who escaped were seriously wounded. Ten men and a number of women and children were captured, among them a cannibal priest, and the Chief of Biaurua. One of the armed constabulary was slightly wounded.

5. These caves are a very strong position, and I consider it a most fortunate thing that no serious casualties occurred, as the cannibals were concealed in caves and behind rocks, and fired on us before we could determine their position.

6. I beg leave to bring to the notice of his Excellency the conduct of the armed constabulary under my command. Had it not been for the fearless manner in which they entered among the rocks and caves we should have taken no prisoners, and considerable difficulty would have been found in dislodging those who were offering opposition there to us.

7. We discovered a portion of a man ready cooked, and just about to be eaten when we arrived.

This man had been murdered the day before near Narata, a Ba town, and was an inhabitant of Na Qelensa.

8. We remained at Na Rarabiau, a small town close to Na Dua, for that night and reached Veiyaraki with our prisoners on the following night.

9. I found it necessary to burn Na Rarabiau and Biaurua. These are both small towns, but are near enough to some of the loyal towns of Nadrau and Na Cawanisa to be dangerous. I append a certificate for the burning of Na Rarabiau. The order for the burning of Biaurua was given while on the march, and it was impossible to comply with his Excellency's Memorandum on the subject of burning towns.

10. Mr. A. J. L. Gordon, Deputy Commissioner, and a body of Cakandrovi and Lau men, joined the force under my command on the 13th instant.

11. Messrs. Wilkinson and McKay left Na Veiyaraki to resume their ordinary duties on the 15th instant.

12. On the 16th instant I started at 2 A.M. with a portion of the force under my command for the Caves of Na Quaquatabua and the neighbouring town of Lobona-Koro, belong to the Naqaqa tribes.

13. We arrived before the principal entrances of the caves shortly after daylight, and surrounded the whole of them before the cannibals had recovered from their surprise. A portion of the inmates surrendered at once and assured us that they were the whole of the occupants of the caves. I discovered, however, that some of the inner caves were occupied.

The occupants declined to come out, and as the passages could only be entered with difficulty on the hands and knees, I decided not to send any of the men in, but to blockade the outlets until the cannibals chose to surrender themselves, which occurred on the night of the following day, but not until they had repeatedly fired on our men and made several attempts to escape.

14. The prisoners captured at Na Quaquatabua consists of fifty-six able-bodied men, five sick men, one of whom has since died, and a large number of women and children.

There are among them several Chiefs of Naqaqa and Nabutantau, and other offenders whose capture was especially desirable. We also took fifty-six muskets.

15. The entrances to the caves were strongly fortified with stone and timber walls, and this, added to the natural strength of the position, appears to render the place impregnable, were it occupied by a few determined men. There were enormous stores of yams in the caves and a considerable quantity of ammunition. A great deal of property from other villages had also been brought there.

16. I have reason to feel assured that the profession of the Naqaqa people of their desire to soro has been false throughout. They have determined to withstand the forces now in Colo to the utmost of their ability, and were preparing the caves at Na Quaquatabua as a formidable obstacle to our progress down the river.

17. A most serious blow must, however, have been given to any opposition on their part by the rifling of their stronghold, and the loss of so many fighting men and muskets, and their stores of ammunition and provisions.

18. I have to report that the Nacawanisa cannibals captured and killed one of the Nadrau men, whom I had sent out to watch their movements. I trust, however, to be able to inflict such a blow on the cannibals of their tribe in the course of the next day or two as will effectually suppress any further misdoings on their part.

I have, &c.

(Signed) L. F. KNOLLYS, *Lieutenant, 32nd Light Infantry, Commanding in Colo.*

The Colonial Secretary,
Levuka.

Inclosure 5 in No. 11.

Sir, *Na Veiyaraki, Nabutantau, July* 31, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, the proceedings of the force under my command since the date of my letter of the 20th instant.

2. On the 21st instant Mr. Heffernan arrived to assume his duties as interpreter to the force.

3. On the 22nd instant I left Na Veiyaraki, with a portion of the force under my command, with the intention of attacking some caves occupied by a body of the Nacawanisa tribe, situated at a considerable distance from this place.

4. I had reason to believe that nearly, if not quite, the whole of the cannibal portion of the above-mentioned tribe was congregated at these caves, which are named Nanuwai, and that, if I were successful in capturing these people, the borders of the Nadrau and Ba territories would be safe from further aggression. This opinion has been confirmed since the successful attack made upon them, and the capture of the whole of the occupants of the caves, who had expressed a belief in their power to hold them against the Government forces.

5. We halted for the night at a friendly Nacawanisa town named Na Biliga.

6. On the 23rd instant we left Na Biliga soon after daylight, and arrived in the neighbourhood of the caves at about mid-day.

7. The information I could obtain concerning them was very imperfect, as even those of the same tribe as the occupants, and living within a few miles of them, knew nothing more concerning these caves than their existence and approximate position. One of the Nadrau men also, out of a party whom I had sent a few days previously to examine the country, had been caught by the inhabitants and killed and eaten.

8. I stationed the Nadrau men at the top of a hill above the cave, to cut off fugitives on that side, and took the remainder of the force round a hill to attack the caves from below.

9. The cannibals discovered us on our coming round the hill at about 500 yards from the caves, and instantly took refuge in them. I attacked the caves from below and on the right with as little delay as possible, in the hopes that we might succeed in charging into them before the cannibals had recovered from their surprise.

They, however, had evidently made full arrangements for their defence, and received us with a well-sustained fire from the different entrances and loopholes of the stronghold, though not a single man of them could be seen, mortally wounding two men, who died on the following day.

10. The Caves of Nanuwai are formed by boulders which have fallen from above into the bed of a torrent, containing water only in the rainy season. The bed itself is full of a confused mass of rocks, and the entrances to the caves, and the passages in them, can be traversed only by stooping low.

11. I found that it would only cause useless loss of life to attempt the taking of these caves by storm; I accordingly divided the force into parties to watch the different outlets of the caves, and prevent any of the cannibals from escaping. This, however, was a work of considerable danger to the men, as new outlets and loopholes were constantly being discovered by the firing of the cannibals from the interior, and two more men of the force were killed, and one dangerously wounded before night.

12. On the four following days the blockade was carefully preserved, but no tendency to surrender was shown by the occupants.

13. On the 26th instant one of the Fiji armed constabulary was severely wounded by a shot from the caves.

14. On the morning of the 28th instant, careful blockade having been kept up day and night since our arrival, a portion of the occupants surrendered themselves prisoners, but the more determined still held out. A further portion came out in the evening, and the remainder surrendered next morning.

15. The loss of the men killed and wounded in this attack is naturally a source of extreme regret, but from the difficult nature of the work required from them, it is a cause of congratulation that more lives were not sacrificed.

16. The conduct of the force engaged in the capture of these caves deserves great commendation, a careful blockade having been kept up by them for six days and nights in dangerous positions, and with a scarcity of food. The latter would have caused grave inconvenience, had it not been for the supplies furnished from the coast by the town of Tavua.

17. I desire especially to bring to the notice of his Excellency the service rendered by Buli Tavua, whose life was more than once attempted when receiving messages of submission from the cannibals, but who, nevertheless, did not hesitate to incur the same danger again when required to do so.

18. There are several important prisoners among those taken from the caves, and these people are certainly the most daring and desperate of the cannibals in this portion of the mountains. I believe that nearly the whole of this body is now in my hands. We also captured a considerable number of muskets.

19. On the 29th instant, I left with a force under my command for Na Veiyaraki, which I reached on the 30th instant with the male portion of the prisoners, numbering over fifty, including several wounded in this affair, and in that at Nadua on the 12th instant. The women and children I have sent to Tavua to await his Excellency's instructions as to their final disposal.

20. I received information yesterday that the people of the Wai-ni-Mala tribe, at present in occupation of the towns of Nuya Koro that have surrendered, have attacked and taken the Naqaqa town of Vatula. This has been done contrary to the orders they have received from Mr. Carew and from myself, and will cause great inconvenience, as the inhabitants who occupied it are now scattered in the bush.

21. I believe the work of reducing this portion of the mountains to peace and safety is now finished, and it is my intention to march the force under my command to Vatula on the 2nd proximo.

22. As I find the number of prisoners in my charge a cause of great inconvenience, I shall send those least implicated in the late disturbances to the coast, to await his Excellency's instruction, only conveying the more important and the more guilty to Vatula.

23. I append the Chief Medical Officer's report on the killed and wounded.

I have, &c.

(Signed) L. F. KNOLLYS, *Lieutenant, 32nd Light Infantry, Commanding in Colo.*

The Colonial Secretary,
Levuka.

Inclosure 6 in No. 11.

Sir, *Naqaqa, Fiji, August* 3, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform you of the movements of the force under my command since the date of my letter of the 31st ultimo.

2. After the capture of the whole of the occupants of the Nanuwai caves, which comprised, I believe, all the cannibal portion of the Nacawanisa tribe, I am of opinion that the districts of Nadrau, Nacawanisa, and Vatusila are safe from any further disturbance.

3. On the 2nd instant I despatched the women and children, taken at different periods during my occupation of Vatusila and Nacawanisa, to the coast towns of Tavua and Sagumi, together with such of the male prisoners as I considered of not sufficient importance to be taken for trial to Vatula. These people went in charge of natives from those towns, with a view to their remaining with them until his Excellency shall have given directions for their disposal.

4. On the same day I marched the whole force, together with the prisoners to the Nuya Karo town of Vimatawa, where a halt was made for the night.

5. I left the force there in charge of Mr. Heffernan, and proceeded on the same day, with an escort of ten men, to Vatula, the chief town of Naqaqa, where I found his Excellency the Governor, and Mr. Le Hunte with 120 men from the force at Nasaucoko, who had entered the town at an earlier period of the day.

6. The force and prisoners from Vatusila arrived at about mid-day on the 3rd nstant. The sick and wounded have been sent to Wala *en route* to Nasaucoko, which they reached on the following day.

7. The disturbances in Viti Levu may now be considered to be at an end, but there still remains a strong body of Mogodro men from Vatula, who have fled to the bush, and whose capture is desirable. This, however, can be accomplished by the usual police force stationed in the interior.

I have, &c.

(Signed) L. F. KNOLLYS, *Lieutenant, 32nd Light Infantry, Commanding in Colo.*

The Colonial Secretary,
Levuka.

Inclosure 7 in No. 11.

Sir, *Nasaucoko, Colo, August* 14, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform you with regard to the movements of the force under my command since the date of my letter of the 3rd instant.

On the 4th instant, in accordance with the sentence passed on him on the 31st ultimo, and confirmed by his Excellency the Governor, Constable Saganavere, a recent deserter from the Fiji armed constabulary, and leader of the resistance offered to the force at the Caves of Nanuwai, where he caused the death of at least two men of my force, was executed by being shot in the presence of the armed constabulary.

On the 10th instant, the contingents from Tavua, Ba, and Raki Raki returned to their homes, the two former escorting a considerable number of male prisoners who had not received sentences in the trials held by the Commissioner at Vatula, women and children belonging to the towns that had joined in the late disturbances to remain under their charge until his Excellency shall have decided with regard to their disposal.

On the same day the whole of the force was marched to Nasaucoko with a view to the transmission of the various contingents to their homes.

The contingents and prisoners under sentence will proceed on the 15th instant on their journey to Levuka.

I have, &c.

(Signed) L. F. KNOLLYS, *Lieutenant, 32nd Light Infantry, Commanding in Colo.*

The Acting Colonial Secretary,
Levuka,

No. 12.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received October 10.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, August* 28, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report my return to Levuka. I left Nasaucoko on the 14th, and proceeded to Beimana, where I was very cordially received by Koli Koli, the Chief, who I have already mentioned to your Lordship as having rendered assistance to the Government of the utmost importance. Beimana consists of several small towns situated near each other in a fine plain, and is, to all appearances, a prosperous and thriving place. On the 15th I walked down the banks of the river to Matanavatu, where I slept.

2. I inclose a copy of an unfinished sketch of this fortress by Mr. Gordon, which his illness has prevented him from completing, but which gives some idea of the situation of this singular stronghold. One town is situated near the river and nearly on a level with it; another lies among the trees on the hill at the foot of the great precipice. But the main defences only commence at this point. First, there is a loopholed earthened wall, behind which is a ditch and rifle pits. When these are passed there lies before one a narrow stairway among rocks and trees, nearly

every step of which bears the marks of bullets. Half way up is a sort of landing, where men were posted, and here, and again at the top, is a loopholed stone wall. At the top of the ascent is a flat space of perhaps an acre, on which many houses were clustered. After passing through them, another steep stair-like path is ascended to a second plateau, on which is a second collection of huts, breastworks, and loopholed stone walls. Beyond this second village there is a descent into a sort of amphitheatre, wooded at the sides, and with water at the bottom. From this basin open a perfect labyrinth of intricate passages, stairways, rocks, walls, trees, houses, and earthworks. At the further end of the depression is another and last ascent leading to the citadel. Matanavatu was taken by surprise on June 18. Had it not been so, it might have resisted until now, for it is so capable of defence that it is difficult to understand its capture; and the enormous stores of food treasured up in it even now, after a week's occupation by an army of 1,200 men, and two months' exposure to plunder from all comers, are not exhausted.

3. On the 16th I went on to Na Sigatoka, a distance of about twenty-five miles, passing on the way the remains of Mr. Gordon's lines at Nasilili, which were occupied by the Nadroga force from the end of April to the middle of June. I was not at all prepared for their size and solidity, extending over a distance of five miles; they formed a complete barrier to any attempt by the cannibals against the Province of Nadroga. Each tribe or division had its own village of huts, its own church, its fences, and outposts. In the centre, on a low hill, commanding the whole position, stands the house built for Mr. Gordon, and those occupied by the two Rokos.

4. My journey from Sigatoka here, performed partly on foot and partly in a boat, though a toilsome one, needs no special record. The whole distance from Nasaucoko to Levuka is about 180 miles, and it was performed in eight days of actual travelling. Fifteen hours' exposure in an open boat on the day—and a wet one, on which I arrived here, unfortunately brought on an attack of fever, from which I am not yet wholly recovered, and which has compelled me to limit my despatches by this mail to communications of a far more meagre nature than I could have desired.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. GORDON.

No. 13.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(*Received October* 10.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, August* 29, 1876.

IN my despatch of the 1st July* I had the honour to inform your Lordship that the record of the proceedings at the trials held at Na Sigatoka by the Assistant Commissioner for Colo would be transmitted to your Lordship so soon as it had been fairly copied. My absence from Levuka has until this time prevented me from forwarding it. I have now the honour to inclose it for your Lordship's information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. GORDON.

Inclosure in No. 13.

AT a Court held at Na Sigatoka on the 29th June, 1876, under the provisions of Ordinance No. XVI of 1875, entitled an "Ordinance to provide for the Judicial Administration of certain districts of the Colony," and Ordinance No. XVIII of 1876, entitled an "Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. XVI of 1875, entitled an 'Ordinance to provide for the Judicial Administration of certain districts of the Colony,'" by Arthur John Lewis Gordon, Esquire, Assistant to the Resident Commissioner for the districts exempted from the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court by the Governor's Proclamation of the 18th day of March, 1876.

* No. 4.

Present, as Assessors:

The Roko Tui Nadroga.
The Roko Tui Namosi.
The Suraga Buli Serua.
Ratu Emosi Loco, Native Stipendiary Magistrate.
The Buli Vatu Korassa, and other Chiefs.
Edward Heffernan, Esq., a Sworn Interpreter to the Colonial Government, acting as Interpreter.

The prisoners named in the accompanying schedule were tried severally upon the charges therein set against their names respectively.

After hearing evidence, as noted in the schedule, the Court adjourned at 5 P.M.

At 9 o'clock in the morning on the following day, June 30th, the Court met again pursuant to adjournment.

Sentence in each case was pronounced by the Assistant Commissioner, as noted in the schedule.

His Excellency the Governor was pleased to confirm the sentence passed by the Assistant Commissioner on the following prisoners:—Mudu, Uluniqili, Reba, Matalau, Na Vatu, Na Walu, Sasere, Cavanago, Taburna, Gege, Onesavi, Savisavirara, Namunamu, Raitono, Lewasau.

His Excellency was further pleased to commute the sentence of death passed on Na-Vatu-ni-Gali, commonly called Tama-ni-sili, to one of ten years' imprisonment with hard labour.

His Excellency was further pleased to commute the sentences passed on Namoso, Luilagi, Vabelebele, Namasau, Namekai, Sanidralaqi, Bulivanua, Vatubolo, Valokoro, Sabanaqau, Vuvatagi, Sawagato, Nadiri, Loko Loka, to five years' imprisonment with hard labour respectively; Bebe, Korovucu, to three years' imprisonment with hard labour; Na Ravu, Tadrasa, to two years' imprisonment with hard labour.

His Excellency addressed the Chiefs present as follows:—

The trials you were yesterday present at are now over, and the Commissioner has pronounced his sentence.

The tribes of Colo have been fully warned. They were warned at Navuso. They were warned all through the interior when Mr. Carew went to take my message to them a year ago.

They were told that the past was passed, and would not be remembered against them.

But they were told also that in time to come they must be peaceable, that they must not murder, that cannibalism must cease, and that they must obey the few orders I should give them, and that if they failed to do so, punishment, and terrible punishment, would follow.

They have disregarded those warnings and disobeyed those orders. They have murdered and eaten peaceable and defenceless people. They have opposed by arms the forces of my Government.

These things must not be, and those who do them must feel the terrors of the law.

They have acted with their eyes open to the risk they ran and their lives are forfeited.

For the multitude of the people who have been led away I have no feeling but pity, nor will they find my hand heavy on them.

The Government is so strong that it can afford to pardon, and in the greater number of cases I have commuted the sentence of death to one of imprisonment. But in fifteen cases I have confirmed the sentence of the Commissioner.

Those who plotted this wickedness and led others to commit it I cannot pardon. Nor can I pardon those who began this evil by killing women and children who could not fight them, nor yet the traitor who took money from the Government whilst he fought against it.

These men must die. [Literally are already dead.] There must be no more wars in Viti Levu. This must be the last time there is fighting. For let there be no doubt about it. There is no man or place in Fiji that, sooner or later, I cannot reach, and if any do wrong in this fashion, most surely, they will be punished for it.

(Signed) ARTHUR J. L. GORDON,
Deputy Commissioner, Colo.

No.	Name.	Charges.	Plea.	Evidence.	Judgment.	Sentence.	Remarks.
1	Namoso, Chief of Vatukoro.	1. That he did, between the 1st day of March and the 12th day of April last past, conspire with certain others, to wit: Mudu, Na Bisiki, Ulunigili, Luilagi, Reba, and others, to set on foot murderous raids upon peaceable subjects of the Queen in this Colony. 2. That at divers times and places, between the 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit, at Batiri, on the 17th of April last, and elsewhere, he did bear arms in such raids, and against the duly constituted authorities of the said Colony. 3. That at divers times and places, between the said 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Matanavatu, on the 18th of June, he has, by force of arms, resisted the arrest of certain persons charged with the crime of murder; and was accessory to the unlawful killing and slaying of divers of Her Majesty's subjects, killed in the endeavour to make such arrests. 4. That he was accessory to the killing and murdering of divers of Her Majesty's peaceable subjects in the said Colony, to wit: Batikobulu, Jinnia, Seruaya, Navue, Salome, Namoli, Tonasiga, Tovidrin, Wagaiwai, Takuieri, Sidrai, Qaidawarau, and Cairisa. 5. That he did, on the 17th of April last past, at Batiri, of malice aforethought, kill and slay Batikobulu, Jinnia, Seruaya, Navue, Salome, Namoli, Tonasiga, Tovidrin, Wagaiwai, Takuieri, Sidrai, Qaidawarau, and Cairisa, against the peace of Her Majesty and the said Colony.	Guilty to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd charge. Not guilty as to 4th and 5th.	Ratu Vulagi, sworn :— "I can swear to the presence of Namoso at Batiri on the day in question, and to his giving directions to his tribe. I was there, and saw him. I did not see him kill any one with his own hand; but some of the women clubbed were killed in his presence." Nasoyawa, sworn :— "I was at Batiri on the 17th of April. I saw Namoso there with those who attacked the town. I know him well. He is Chief of Vatukoro. There could be no doubt about it. I did not see him kill any one with his own hand."	Guilty on 1st, 2nd, and 3rd and 4th charges. Not guilty on 5th.	Death	Sentence commuted to five years' imprisonment, with hard labour.
2	Luilagi, Chief of Bukutia.	1. That he did, between the 1st day of March and the 12th day of April last past, conspire with certain others, to wit: Mudu, Na Bisiki, Ulunigili, Reba and others, to set on foot murderous raids upon peaceable subjects of the Queen in this Colony. 2. That at divers times and places, between the 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Batiri, on the 17th of April last, and elsewhere, he did bear arms in such raids, and against the duly constituted authorities of the said Colony. 3. That at divers times and places between the said 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Korovutumā and Bukutia, he has, by force of arms, resisted the arrest of certain persons charged with the crime of murder; and was accessory to the unlawful killing and slaying of divers of Her Majesty's subjects, killed in the endeavour to make such arrests. 4. That he was accessory to the killing and murdering of divers of Her Majesty's peaceable subjects in the said Colony, to wit: Batikobulu, Jinnia and Seruaya, men; and Navue, Salome, Namoli, Tonasiga, Tovidrin, Wagaiwai, Takuieri, Sidrai, Qaidawarau, and Cairisa, women. 5. That he did, on the 17th of April last past, at Batiri, of malice aforethought, kill and slay Batikobulu, Jinnia, and Seruaya, men; and Navue, Salome, Namoli, Tonasiga, Tovidrin, Wagaiwai, Takuieri, Sidrai, Qaidawarau, and Cairisa, women, against the peace of Her Majesty and the said Colony.	Not guilty of murder. My people went to Batiri. I did not go there. I am old.	Ruku Ruku, sworn :— "Luilagi ordered the people of his town to go and join in the attack on Batiri. He went with them himself. I saw him at Loma Loma, in Batiri, on that day. How could I be mistaken as to him? Is the Chief of Bukutia a person to be mistaken? He was there, but I did not see him kill any one." Dukuribi, sworn :— "I saw Luilagi at Loma Loma, in Batiri, when the women were clubbed there. Yes, with my own eyes I saw him there. I did not see him kill any one. He stood apart, and gave orders to the men who were burning the town and killing the women."	Guilty on charges 1, 2, 3, and 4. Not guilty on 5th charge.	Death	Sentence commuted by his Excellency to one of five years' imprisonment with hard labour. This Chief is a very old man.

No.	Name.	Charges.	Plea.	Evidence.	Judgment.	Sentence.	Remarks.
3	Savisavirara, Chief of Tavuni.	1. That he did, between the 1st day of March and the 12th day of April last past, conspire with certain others, to wit: Mudu, Na Bisiki, Ulunigili, Reba, and others, to set on foot murderous raids upon peaceable subjects of the Queen in this Colony. 2. That at divers times and places between the 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Batiri, on the 17th of April last, and elsewhere, he did bear arms in such raids, and against the duly constituted authorities of the said Colony. 3. That at divers times and places, between the said 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit, at Korovatuma, Matanavatu, and Qalimari, he has, by force of arms, resisted the arrest of certain persons charged with the crime of murder, and was accessory to the unlawful killing and slaying of divers of Her Majesty's subjects, killed in the endeavour to make such arrests. 4. That he was accessory to the killing and murdering of divers of Her Majesty's peaceable subjects in the said Colony, to wit: Batikobulu, Jinnia, Seruaya, Navue, Salome, Namoli, Tonasiga, Tovidrin, Wagaiwai, Takuieri, Sidrai, Qaidawarau, and Cairisa. 5. That he did, on the 17th April last past, at Batiri, of malice aforethought, kill and slay Batikobulu, Jinnia, Seruaya, Navue, Salome, Namoli, Tonasiga, Tovidrin, Wagaiwai, Takuieri, Sidrai, Qaidawarau, and Cairisa, against the peace of Her Majesty and the said Colony.	Guilty	Guilt admitted	Guilty	Death	Executed.
4	Levasau, a Tavuni Chief,	1. That he did, between the 1st day of March and the 12th day of April last past, conspire with certain others, to wit: Mudu, Na Bisiki, Ulunigili, Reba, and others, to set on foot murderous raids upon peaceable subjects of the Queen in this Colony. 2. That at divers times and places, between the 12th day of April and the 13rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Batiri, on the 17th of April, and elsewhere, he did bear arms in such raids, and against the duly constituted authorities of the said Colony. 3. That at divers times and places, between the said 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Korovukama, Matanavutu, and Qalimari, he has, by force of arms, resisted the arrest of certain persons charged with the crime of murder; and was accessory to the unlawful killing and slaying of divers of Her Majesty's subjects, killed in the endeavour to make such arrests. 4. That he was accessory to the killing and murdering of divers of Her Majesty's peaceable subjects in the said Colony, to wit: Batikobulu, Jinnia, Seruaya, Navue, Salome, Namoli, Tonisiga, Tovidrin, Waigawai, Takuieri, Sidrai, Qadawarau, and Cairisa. 5. That he did, on the 17th of April last past, at Batiri, of malice aforethought, kill and slay Batikobulu, Jinnia, Seruaya, Navue, Salome, Namoli, Tonasiga, Tovidrin, Wagaiwai, Takuieri, Sidrai, Quidawarau, and Cairisa, against the peace of Her Majesty and the said Colony.	Guilty of bearing arms and of being accessory to the murders, but not of actual murder. I was at Batiri, but did not myself kill any one.	Admits to four first charges ..	Guilty of four first charges	Death	Executed.

No.	Name.	Charges.	Plea.	Evidence.	Judgment.	Sentence.	Remarks.
5	Vabelebele, a Tavuni Chief.	1. That he did, between the 1st day of March and the 12th day of April last past, conspire with certain others, to wit: Mudu, Na Bisiki, Ulunigili, Reba, and others, to set on foot murderous raids upon peaceable subjects of the Queen in this Colony. 2. That at divers times and places, between the 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Batiri, on the 17th of April, and elsewhere, he did bear arms in such raids, and against the duly constituted authorities of the said Colony. 3. That at divers times and places, between the said 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Korovutuma, Matanavatu, and Qalimari, he has, by force of arms, resisted the arrest of certain persons charged with the crime of murder; and was accessory to the unlawful killing and slaying of divers of Her Majesty's subjects, killed in the endeavour to make such arrests. 4. That he was accessory to the killing and murdering of divers of Her Majesty's peaceable subjects in the said Colony, to wit: Batikobulu, Jinnia, Seruaya, Navue, Salome, Namoli, Tonasiga, Tovidrin, Wagaiwai, Takuieri, Sidrai, Qaidawarau, and Cairisa. 5. That he did, on the 17th of April last past, at Batiri, of malice aforethought, kill and slay Batikobulu, Jinnia, Seruaya, Navue, Salome, Namoli, Tonasiga, Tovidrin, Wagaiwai, Takuieri, Sidrai, Qaidawarau, and Cairisa, against the peace of Her Majesty and the said Colony.	Not guilty. I was at Nadrala on the day the murders were committed.	Alewabuca, sworn:— "I saw Vabelebele present among those who attacked and burned the village of Nacuki, in Batiri, on the 17th of April, and killed the Kati Kati there. I did not see him kill anyone. I ran away as quickly as I could to hide myself. I saw him shouting and encouraging others. Yes, with my own eyes I saw these." Rogosau, sworn:— "I was at Nacuki when it was burned. I saw Vabelebele there. I am positively sure it was Vabelebele, and not any one else like him that was there. I did not see him kill anyone."	Guilty on 1st, 2nd, and 3rd charges	Death	Sentence commuted by his Excellency to five years' hard labour.
6	Namasau, Herald of the Qali Mari.	1. That he did, between the 1st day of March and the 12th day of April last past, conspire with certain others, to wit: Mudu, Na Bisiki, Ulunigili, Reba, and others, to set on foot murderous raids upon peaceable subjects of the Queen in this Colony. 2. That at divers times and places, between the 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Batiri, on the 17th of April, and elsewhere, he did bear arms in such raids, and against the duly constituted authorities of the said Colony. 3. That at divers times and places, between the said 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Korovutuma, Matanavatu, and Qalimari, he has, by force of arms, resisted the arrest of certain persons charged with the crime of murder; and was accessory to the unlawful killing and slaying of divers of Her Majesty's subjects, killed in the endeavour to make such arrests. 4. That he was accessory to the killing and murdering of divers of Her Majesty's peaceable subjects in the said Colony, to wit: Batikobulu, Jinnia, Seruaya, Navue, Salome, Namoli, Tonasiga, Tovidrin, Wagaiwai, Takuieri, Sidrai, Qaidawarau, and Cairisa. 5. That he did, on the 17th of April last past, at Batiri, of malice aforethought, kill and slay Batikobulu, Jinnia, Seruaya, Navue, Salome, Nomali, Tonasiga, Tovidrin, Wagaiwai, Takuieri, Sidrai, Qaidawarau, and Cairisa, against the peace of Her Majesty and the said Colony.	Guilty, except that I did not kill any woman at Batiri	.. .. ..	Guilty on charges 1, 2, 3, and 4. Not guilty on 5th.	Death, but recommended to mercy.	Sentence commuted to one of five years' imprisonment with hard labour.

No.	Name.	Charges.	Plea.	Evidence.	Judgment.	Sentence.	Remarks.
7	Namekai, Taba ni Vonu.	1. That he did, between the 1st day of March and the 12th day of April last past, conspire with certain others, to wit: Mudu, Na Bisiki, Ulunigili, Reba and others, to set on foot murderous raids upon peaceable subjects of the Queen in this Colony. 2. That at divers times and places, to wit: at Nawaga, Devu, Vanasarawa, Vunamoli, Nalogi, and Nadromai, on the 12th, 13th, and 14th April, and Batiri, on the 17th April, in the present year, and elsewhere, he did bear arms in such raids, and against the duly constituted authorities of the said Colony. 3. That at divers times and places, between the said 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: Koro Vutuma, Matanavatu, Na Qalimari, and other places, he has, by force of arms, resisted the arrest of certain persons charged with the crime of murder; and was accessory to the unlawful killing and slaying of divers of Her Majesty's subjects killed in the endeavour to make such arrests. 4. That he was accessory to the killing and murdering of divers of Her Majesty's peaceable subjects in the said Colony, to wit: Batikobulu, Jinnia, Seruaya, Navue, Salome, Namoli, Tonasiga, Tovidrin, Wagaiwai, Takuieri, Sidrai, Qaidarawarau, Cairisa, Tanniese, Nuati, and Nemiawali. 5. That he did, on the 17th of April last past, at Batiri, of malice aforethought, kill and slay Emosi, against the peace of Her Majesty and the said Colony.	Guilty of bearing arms against the Government; but I did not kill a Bati ni Vanua man after the attack on Batiri. I only shot him in the head. I did not kill him. I don't know whether he died or not. I was at Bakuka when Batiri was burnt. I was in the attack on Nadromai. On our way there we burnt Vunasanawa, a Nadi town. Four people were killed there, or I rather think five. I did not kill any myself.	.. ..	Guilty on 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th	Death, but recommended to mercy	Sentence commuted by his Excellency to five years' imprisonment, with hard labour.
8	Kai Vinaka, Tabu ni Vonu.	1. That at divers times and places, between the 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Batiri, on the 17th of April, and elsewhere, he did bear arms against the duly constituted authorities of this Colony. 2. That at divers times and places, between the said 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Korovutuma, Matanavatu, and Qalimari, he has, by force of arms, resisted the arrest of certain persons charged with the crime of murder; and was accessory to the unlawful killing and slaying of divers of Her Majesty's subjects, killed in the endeavour to make such arrests. 3. That he was accessory to the killing and murdering of divers of Her Majesty's peaceable subjects in the said Colony, to wit: Batikobulu, Jinnia, Seruaya, Navue, Salome, Namoli, Tonasiga, Tovidrin, Wagaiwai, Takuieri, Sidrai, Qaidawarau, and Cairisa. 4. That he did, on the 17th April last past, at Batiri, of malice aforethought, kill and slay Batikobulu, Jinnia, Seruaya, Navue, Salome, Namoli, Tonasiga, Tovidrin, Wagaiwai, Takuieri, Sidrai, Qaidawarau, and Cairisa, against the peace of Her Majesty and the said Colony.	Not guilty. I was not at Batiri; I was then at Galu. The enemy took hold of me and forced me to go with them. This was at Wai Roko. I tried to go back from them but they prevented me.	Mamunamu (prisoner), a heathen, on solemn affirmation, states:— "I know Kai Vinaka. He was taken away by us against his will at the attack on Wai Roko. He remained with us afterwards. We would not let him go away. Atamata Vesu (prisoner), sworn:— "I was taken away at the same time as Kai Vinaka and in the same manner. I know him. It was our wish to obey Nadroga. We remained in our town and did not go near the enemy, but they came and took us, and Kai Vinaka too among the number. Our two Chiefs knew all about it, I suppose, and what was expected, but we knew nothing of it. We were nearly all taken by force and against our will to serve the enemy in this war. There are about ten of us here among the prisoners."	Not guilty.. ..	Acquitted.	

No.	Name.	Charges.	Plea.	Evidence.	Judgment.	Sentence.	Remarks.
9 10 11 12	Tanidralagi, Bulivanua, Raitono, and Vatubolo.	1. That they did, between the 1st day of March and the 12th day of April last past, conspire with certain others, to wit: Mudu, Na Bisiki, Ulunigili, Reba, and others, to set on foot murderous raids upon peaceable subjects of the Queen in this Colony. 2. That at divers times and places, between the 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Batiri on the 17th of April, and elsewhere, they did bear arms in such raids, and against the duly constituted authorities of the said Colony. 3. That at divers times and places, between the said 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June, in the present year, to wit: at Korovutuma, Matanavatu, and Qalimari, they have, by force of arms, resisted the arrest of certain persons charged with the crime of murder, and were accessory to the unlawful killing and slaying of divers of Her Majesty's subjects, killed in the endeavour to make such arrests. 4. That they were accessory to the killing and murdering of divers of Her Majesty's peaceable subjects in the said Colony, to wit: Batikobulu, Jinnia, Seruaya, Navue, Salome, Namoli, Tonasiga, Tovidrin, Wagaiwai, Takuieri, Sidrai, Qaidawarau, and Cairisa. 5. That they did, on the 17th of April last past, at Batiri, of malice aforethought, kill and slay Batikobulu, Jinnia, Seruaya, Navue, Salome, Namoli, Tonasiga, Tovidrin, Wagaiwai, Takuieri, Sidrai, Qaidawarau, and Cairisa, against the peace of Her Majesty and the said Colony.	Guilty. We were all at Batiri ..	Admission	Guilty	Death	Raitono executed. Capital sentence on the other three commuted into one of five years' imprisonment with hard labour.
13	Na Vatu ni Gali, commonly called "Sama ni Sili," Chief of Nokonoko.	1. That he did, between the 1st day of March and the 12th day of April last past, conspire with certain others, to wit: Mudu, Na Bisiki, Ulunigili, Reba, and others, to set on foot murderous raids upon peaceable subjects of the Queen in this Colony. 2. That at divers times and places, between the 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Bitiri, on the 17th of April, and elsewhere, he did bear arms in such raids, and against the duly constituted authorities of the said Colony. 3. That at divers times and places, between the said 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Korovatuma, Matanavatu, and Qalimari, he has by force of arms resisted the arrest of certain persons charged with the crime of murder; and was accessory to the unlawful killing and slaying of divers of Her Majesty's subjects, killed in the endeavour to make such arrests. 4. That he was accessory to the killing and murdering of divers of Her Majesty's peaceable subjects in the said Colony, to wit: Batikobulu, Jinnia, Seruaya, Navue, Salome, Namoli, Tonasiga, Tovidrin, Wagaiwai, Takuieri, Sidrai, Qaidawarau, and Cairisa. 5. That he did, on the 17th of April last past, at Batiri, of malice aforethought, kill and slay Batikobulu, Jinnia, Seruaya, Navue, Salome, Namoli, Tonasiga, Tovidrin, Wagaiwai, Takuieri, Sidrai, Qaidawarau, and Cairisa, against the peace of Her Majesty and the said Colony.	Guilty of all but Batiri; but not guilty in mind. I was in arms against the Government, but I was forced to do so by my people. My own mind was not hostile. I sent my people to the fight at Batiri; at least I let them go there. I was there myself. No, I was not. I did not go myself. I only sent my men. I sent a message to Ratu Luki to say that I would not burn any towns on the Nadroga side of the river. I only sent my people against the people and towns on the other side of the river. I came to Cuvu myself, and heard the report of the orders and wishes of the Government. I put on cloth there. When I went back my people ran away from me, and would not obey me, because I had put on cloth. *Question by the Court.*—Did you not say that your daughter should go naked till Cuvu was burnt?—*A.* It was not I who did this, but my people who decided in this matter; and that my daughter should be thus set aside till Nadroga was destroyed. *Q.* Are you the Chief of Nokonoko?—*A.* I am the Chief. *Q.* Is it usual in Fiji for a Chief to permit the common people to decide that his daughter shall be made a fool of, and played with in this fashion?—*A.* It was my people did it. I am guilty of the things charged, but I had no evil mind.		Guilty on charges 2, 3, and 4.	Death; but recommended to his Excellency's mercy.	Sentence commuted to ten years' imprisonment with hard labour.

No.	Name.	Charges.	Plea.	Evidence.	Judgment.	Sentence.	Remarks.
14	Onesavi, a Tavuni Chief.	1. That he did between the 1st day of March and the 12th day of April last past, conspire with certain others, to wit: Mudu, Na Bisiki, Ulunigili, Reba, and others, to set on foot murderous raids upon peaceable subjects of the Queen in this Colony. 2. That at divers times and places, between the 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June, in the present year, to wit: at Batiri, on the 17th of April, and elsewhere, he did bear arms in such raids, and against the duly constituted authorities of the said Colony. 3. That at divers times and places, between the said 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Korovutuma, Matanavatu, Qalimari, he has, by force of arms, resisted the arrest of certain persons charged with the crime of murder, and was accessory to the unlawful killing and slaying of divers of Her Majesty's subjects killed in the endeavour to make such arrests. 4. That he was accessory to the killing and murdering of divers of Her Majesty's peaceable subjects in the said Colony, to wit: Batikobulu, Jinnia, Seruaya, Navue, Salome, Namoli, Tonasiga, Tovidrin, Wagaiwai, Takuieri, Sidrai, Qaidawarau, and Cairisa. 5. That he did, on the 17th of April last past, at Batiri, of malice aforethought, kill and slay Batikobulu, Jinnia, Seruaya, Navue, Salome, Namoli, Tonasiga, Tovidrin, Wagaiwai, Takuieri, Sidrai, Qaidawarau, and Cairisa, against the peace of Her Majesty and the said Colony.	Guilty	.. ..	Guilty	Death	Executed. A notorious character.
15	Navatu of Nadroga.	1. That at divers times and places, between the 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Batiri, on the 17th of April, and elsewhere, he did bear arms against the duly constituted authorities of this Colony, 2. That at divers times and places, between the said 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Matanavatu, he has, by force of arms, resisted the arrest of certain persons charged with the crime of murder; and was accessory to the unlawful killing and slaying of divers of Her Majesty's subjects, killed in the endeavour to make such arrests. 3. That he was accessory to the killing and murdering of divers of Her Majesty's peaceable subjects in the said Colony, to wit: Batikobulu, Jinnia, Seruaya, Navue, Salome, Namoli, Tonasiga, Tovidrin, Wagaiwai, Takuieri, Sidrai, Qaidawarau and Cairisa, 4. That he did, on the 17th of April last past, at Batiri, of malice aforethought, kill and slay one Koroiwase, against the peace of Her Majesty and the said Colony.	"I was at Batiri, and I speared Koroiwase, and chopped another man; but I did not kill any women or children."	Admits guilt	Guilty	Death	Executed.

No.	Name.	Charges.	Plea.	Evidence.	Judgment.	Sentence.	Remarks.
16	Matalau of Nadrala.	1. That at divers times and places, between the 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Batiri, on the 17th of April, and elsewhere, he did bear arms against the duly constituted authorities of this Colony. 2. That at divers times and places, between the 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Matanavatu, he has, by force of arms, resisted the arrest of certain persons charged with the crime of murder; and was accessory to the unlawful killing and slaying of divers of Her Majesty's subjects, killed in the endeavour to make such arrests. 3. That he was accessory to the killing and murdering of divers of Her Majesty's peaceable subjects in the said Colony, to wit: Batikobulu, Jinnia, Seruaya, Navue, Salome, Namoli, Tonasiga, Tovidrin, Wagaiwai, Takuieri, Sidrai, Qaidawarau, and Cairisa. 4. That he did, on the 17th of April last past, at Batiri, of malice aforethought, kill and slay one Salome, against the peace of Her Majesty and the said Colony.	Guilty. I killed Salome. I killed her with a club.	Pleaded guilty	Guilty	Death	Executed.
17	Na Walu, of Nadrala.	1. That at divers times and places, between the 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Batiri, on the 17th of April, and elsewhere, he did bear arms against the duly constituted authorities of this Colony. 2. That at divers times and places, between the said 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Matanavatu, he has, by force of arms, resisted the arrest of certain persons charged with the crime of murder; and was accessory to the unlawful killing and slaying of divers of Her Majesty's subjects killed in the endeavour to make such arrests. 3. That he was accessory to the killing and murdering of divers of Her Majesty's peaceable subjects in the said Colony, to wit: Batikobulu, Jinnia, Seruaya, Navue, Salome, Namoli, Tonasiga, Tovidrin, Wagaiwai, Takuieri, Sidrai, Qaidawarau, and Cairisa. 4. That he did, on the 17th of April last past, at Batiri, of malice aforethought, kill and slay a child, name unknown, against the peace of Her Majesty and the said Colony.	Yes, I was at Batiri with those who killed the women. I did not kill any women. It is quite true I killed a child; only one though.	Admits guilt	Guilty	Death	Executed.
18	Tasere of Nadrala.	1. That at divers times and places, between the 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Batiri, on the 17th of April, and elsewhere, he did bear arms against the duly constituted authorities of this Colony. 2. That at divers times and places, between the 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Matanavatu, he has, by force of arms, resisted the arrest of certain persons charged with the crime of murder; and was accessory to the unlawful killing and slaying of divers of Her Majesty's subjects, killed in the endeavour to make such arrests. 3. That he was accessory to the killing and murdering of divers of Her Majesty's peaceable subjects in the said Colony, to wit: Batikobulu, Jinnia, Seruaya, Navue, Salome, Namoli, Tonasiga, Tovidrin, Wagaiwai, Takuieri, Sidrai, Qaidawarau, and Cairisa. 4. That he did, on the 17th day of April last past, at Batiri, of malice aforethought, kill and slay one Tovidrin, against the peace of Her Majesty and the said Colony.	Guilty. I killed this woman at Batiri.	Admits guilt	Guilty	Death	Executed.

No.	Name.	Charges.	Plea.	Evidence.	Judgment.	Sentence.	Remarks.
19	Mudu, Chief of Qalimari.	1. That he did, between the first day of March and the 12th day of April last past, conspire with certain others, to wit: Ulunigili, Na Bisiki, Luilagi, Reba, and others, to set on foot murderous raids upon peaceable subjects of the Queen in this Colony. 2. That at divers times and places, between the 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Nawaqa, Tovei, Vatuma, Koroivatu, Vanasarawa, Deva, Vunamoli, Naloqi, Vunamatabuco, and elsewhere, he did bear arms in such raids, and against the duly constituted authorities of the said Colony. 3. That at divers times and places, between the said 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Korovatuma, Bukutia, Navua, Matanavatu, Qalimari, and Korovuselo, he has, by force of arms, resisted the arrest of certain persons charged with the crime of murder; and was accessory to the unlawful killing and slaying of divers of Her Majesty's subjects, killed in the endeavour to make such arrests. 4. That he was accessory to the killing and murdering of divers of Her Majesty's peaceable subjects in the said Colony, to wit: Ratu-vu, Buli Malolo, and others. 5. That he did, on the 12th of April last past, at Nawaqa, of malice aforethought, kill and slay Tamuse, Nuata, and Ni-mai-wali, against the peace of Her Majesty and the said Colony.	Guilty	Admits guilt	Guilty	Death	Executed. The chief fomenter of the late troubles.
20	Ulunigili, a Qalimari Chief.	1. That he did, between the 1st day of March and the 12th day of April last past, conspire with certain others, to wit: Mudu, Na Bisiki, Reba, and others, to set on foot murderous raids upon peaceable subjects of the Queen in this Colony. 2. That at divers times and places, between the 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Nawaqa, Tovei, Vatuma, Koroivotu, Vunasarawa, Deva, Vuna Moli, Naloqi, and Vuna Malabuco, and elsewhere, he did bear arms in such raids, and against the duly constituted authorities of the said Colony. 3. That at divers times and places, between the said 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Korovatuma, Bukutia, Mavua, Matanavatu, Qalimari, and Korovuselo, he has, by force of arms, resisted the arrest of certain persons charged with the crime of murder, and was accessory to the unlawful killing and slaying of divers of Her Majesty's subjects killed in the endeavour to make such arrests.	Guilty	Admits guilt	Guilty	Death	Executed. Mudu's principal Lieutenant.

No.	Name.	Charges.	Plea.	Evidence.	Judgment.	Sentence.	Remarks.
21 22	Valokoro, Chief of Qoroqorovukatini; and Sabanaqau, a Qalimari Chief.	1. That they did, between the 1st day of March and the 12th day of April last past, conspire with certain others, to wit: Ulunigili, Na Bisiki, Luilagi, Reba, and others, to set on foot murderous raids upon peaceable subjects of the Queen in this Colony. 2. That at divers times and places, between the 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Nawaqa, Tovei, Vatuma, Koroivatu, Vanasarawa, Deva, Vimamoli, Naloqi, Vunamatabuco, Satuba, and elsewhere, they did bear arms in such raids, and against the duly constituted authorities of the said Colony. 3. That at divers times and places, between the said 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Korovatuma, Bukutia, Navua, Matanavatu, Qalimari, and Korovuselo, they have, by force of arms, resisted the arrest of certain persons charged with the crime of murder; and were accessory to the unlawful killing and slaying of divers of Her Majesty's subjects, killed in the endeavour to make such arrests. 4. That they were accessory to the killing and murdering of divers of Her Majesty's peaceable subjects in the said Colony, to wit: Ratu-vu, Buli Malolo, and others. 5. That they did, on the 12th day of April last past, at Nawaqa, of malice aforethought, kill and slay Tamuse, Nuata, and Ni-mai-wali, against the peace of Her Majesty and the said Colony.	Guilty. We followed the leading of Mudu.	Admit guilt	Guilty	Death; but recommended to mercy.	Sentence commuted to five years' imprisonment, with hard labour.
23	Nasavu.	1. That he did, between the 1st day of March and the 12th day of April last past, conspire with certain others, to wit: Mudu, Na Bisiki, Ulunigili, Luilagi, Reba, and others, to set on foot murderous raids upon peaceable subjects of the Queen in this Colony. 2. That at divers times and places, between the 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Nawaqa, Lovei, Vatuma, Koroivatu, Vunasarawa, Deva, Vuna Moli, Naloqi, and Vuna Matabuco, and elsewhere, he did bear arms in such raids, and against the duly constituted authorities of the said Colony. 3. That at divers times and places, between the said 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Korovatuma, Bukutia, Mavua, Matanavatu, Qalimari, and Koro Vuselo, he has, by force of arms, resisted the arrest of certain persons charged with the crime of murder; and was accessory to the unlawful killing and slaying of divers of Her Majesty's subjects, killed in the endeavour to make such arrests. 4. That he was accessory to the killing and murdering of divers of Her Majesty's peaceable subjects in the said Colony, to wit: Ratu Vu, Buli Malolo, and others. 5. That he did, on the 12th April last past, at Nawaqa, of malice aforethought, kill and slay Tamuse, Nuata, and Ni-mai-wali, against the peace of Her Majesty and the said Colony.	Guilty. "I attacked the lotu towns in my neighbourhood, when directed to do so by the Qali-mari."	Admits guilt	Guilty	Death; but recommended to mercy on account of his age.	Sentence commuted by his Excellency to one of two years' imprisonment.

No.	Name.	Charges.	Plea.	Evidence.	Judgment.	Sentence.	Remarks.
24	Reba, Chief of Matanavatu.	1. That he did, between the 1st day of March and the 12th day of April last past, conspire with certain others, to wit: Mudu, Na Bisiki, Ulunigili, Luilagi, and others, to set on foot murderous raids upon peaceable subjects of the Queen in this Colony. 2. That at divers times and places, between the 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June, in the present year, to wit: at Nawaqa, Deva, Vunamoli, Naloqi, and Vunamatabuco, on the 12th, 13th, and 14th of April, and Batiri, on the 17th of April, he did bear arms in such raids, and against the duly constituted authorities of the said Colony. 3. That at divers times and places, between the said 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Korovatuma, Matanavatu, Koroisa, Bociwa, Iwaga, Wakuku, Kucivi, and elsewhere, he has, by force of arms, resisted the arrest of certain persons charged with the crime of murder; and was accessory to the unlawful killing and slaying of divers of Her Majesty's subjects, killed in the endeavour to make such arrests. 4. That he was accessory to the killing and murdering of divers of Her Majesty's peaceable subjects in the said Colony, to wit: Batikobulu, Jinnia, Seruaya, Navue, Salome, Namoli, Tonasiga, Tovidrin, Wagaiwai, Takuieri, Sidrai, Qaidawarau, Cairisa, Ratu-na-Vu, and Buli Malolo. 5. That he did, on the 17th of April last past, at Batiri, of malice aforethought, kill and slay Batikobulu, Jinnia, Seruaya, Navue, Salome, Namoli, Tonasiga, Tovidrin, Wagaiwai, Takuieri, Sidrai, Qaidawarau, and Cairisa, against the peace of Her Majesty and the said Colony.	Guilty. "I did not, however, wish to continue the war after Batiri. That was the doing of Mudu and others."	Admits guilt	Guilty	Death	Executed. One of the chief leaders of the cannibals.
25	Vuvutagi, Chief of Navua.	1. That he did, between the 1st day of March and the 12th day of April last past, conspire with certain others, to wit: Mudu, Ulunigili, Na Bisika, Luilagi, Reba, and others, to set on foot murderous raids upon peaceable subjects of the Queen in this Colony. 2. That at divers times and places, between the 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Nawaqa, Tovei, Vatuma, Koroivatu, Vunasarawa, Deva, Vunamoli, Naloqi, Vunamatabuco, and elsewhere, he did bear arms in such raids, and against the duly constituted authorities of the said Colony. 3. That at divers times and places, between the said 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Korovotuma, Bukutia, Navua, Matanavatu, Qalimari, and Korovuselo, he has, by force of arms resisted the arrest of certain persons charged with the crime of murder; and was accessory to the unlawful killing and slaying of divers of Her Majesty's subjects, killed in the endeavour to make such arrests. 4. That he was accessory to the killing and murdering of divers of Her Majesty's peaceable subjects in the said Colony,, to wit: Ratu Vu, Buli Malolo, and others.	Guilty	Admits guilt	Guilty	Death, but recommended to mercy	Sentence commuted to five years' imprisonment, with hard labour. A Chief of small importance.

No.	Name.	Charges.	Plea.	Evidence.	Judgment.	Sentence.	Remarks.
26	Gege, Ex-Buli of Wai Colo.	1. That he did, between the 1st day of March, and the 12th day of April last past, conspire with certain others, to wit: Mudu, Ulunigili, Na Bisiki, Liulaga, Reba, and others, to set on foot murderous raids upon peaceable subjects of the Queen in this Colony. 2. That at divers times and places, between the 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Nawaqa, Lovei, Vatuma, Koroivatu, Vunasarawa, Deva, Vunamoli, Naloqi, Vunamatabuco, and elsewhere, he did bear arms in such raids, and against the duly constituted authorities of the said Colony. 3. That at divers times and places between the said 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Korovutuma, Bukutia, Mavua, Matanavatu, Qalimari, and Korovuselo, he has, by force of arms, resisted the arrest of certain persons charged with the crime of murder; and was accessory to the unlawful killing and slaying of divers of Her Majesty's subjects, killed in the endeavour to make such arrests. 4. That he was accessory to the killing and murdering of divers of Her Majesty's peaceable subjects in the said Colony, to wit: Ratu Vu, Buli Malolo, and others. 5. That he did, on the 12th of April last past, at Nawaga, of malice aforethought, kill and slay Tamuse, Nuata, and Ni-mai-wali, against the peace of Her Majesty and the said Colony. 6. That he did, whilst holding an office of profit under the Crown, to wit: that of Buli, Wai Colo, traitorously join himself to an armed force raised to oppose Her Majesty's authority, and did bear arms in such force when resisting the advance of the armed constabulary.	Guilty	Admits guilt	Guilty	Death	Executed. This man was in receipt of Government pay as Buli of Wai Colo when he joined the forces opposed to those of the Government.
27	Tawagati.	1. That at divers times and places, between the 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Nawaqa, Tovei, Vatuma, Koroivatu, Vunasarawa, Deva, Vunamoli, Naloqi, Vunamabuco, and elsewhere, he did bear arms in such raids, and against the duly constituted authorities of the said Colony. 2. That at divers times and places, between the said 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Korovatuma, Bukutia, Navua, Matanavatu, Qalimari, and Korovuselo, he has, by force of arms, resisted the arrest of certain persons charged with the crime of murder; and was accessory to the unlawful killing and slaying of divers of Her Majesty's subjects, killed in the endeavour to make such arrests. 3. That he was accessory to the killing and murdering of divers of Her Majesty's peaceable subjects in the said Colony, to wit: Ratu Vu, Buli Malolo, and others. 4. That he did, on the 12th April last past, at Nawaga, of malice aforethought, kill and slay Tamuse, Nuata, and Ni-mai-wali, against the peace of Her Majesty and the said Colony.	Guilty	Admits guilt	Guilty	Death but recommended to mercy.	Sentence commuted by his Excellency to five years' imprisonment, with hard labour. An old man; father of Gege.

No.	Name.	Charges.	Plea.	Evidence.	Judgment.	Sentence.	Remarks.
28	Nadiri.	1. That at divers times and places, between the 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Nawaqa, Tovei, Vatuma, Koroivatu, Vunasarawa, Deva, Vunamoli, Naloqi, Vunamabuco, and elsewhere, he did bear arms in such raids, and against the duly constituted authorities of the said Colony. 2. That at divers times and places, between the said 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June of the present year, to wit: at Korovatuma, Bukutia, Navua, Matanavatu, Qalimari, and Korovuselo, he has, by force of arms, resisted the arrest of certain persons charged with the crime of murder; and was accessory to the unlawful killing and slaying of divers of Her Majesty's subjects, killed in the endeavour to make such arrests. 3. That he was accessory to the killing and murdering of divers of Her Majesty's peaceable subjects in the said Colony, to wit: Ratu Vu, Buli Malolo, and others. 4. That he did, on the 18th of June last past, at Matanavatu, of malice aforethought, kill and slay one Ratu Vu, and Buli Malolo, against the peace of Her Majesty and the said Colony.	Guilty. "I aimed at Ratu Luki."	Admits guilt	Guilty	Death; but recommended to mercy.	Sentence commuted by his Excellency to five years' imprisonment, with hard labour
29	Cavanago, of Nasaucoko.	1. That he did, between the first day of March and the 12th day of April last past, conspire with certain others, to wit: Muda, Ulunigili, Na Bisiki, Luilagi, Reba, and others, to set on foot murderous raids upon peaceable subjects of the Queen in this Colony. 2. That at divers times and places, between the 12th of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Nawaqa, Tovei, Vatuma, Korowatu, Vunasarawa, Deva, Vunamoli, Naloqi, Vunamatabuco, and elsewhere, he did bear arms in such raids, and against the duly constituted authorities of the said Colony. 3. That at divers times and places, between the 12th of April and the 23rd of June in the present year, to wit: at Korovutuma, Bukutia, Navua, Matanavatu, Qalimari, and Korovuselo, he has, by force of arms, resisted the arrest of certain persons charged with the crime of murder; and was accessory to the killing and slaying of divers of Her Majesty's subjects, killed in the endeavour to make such arrests. 4. That he was accessory to the killing and murdering of divers of Her Majesty's subjects in the said Colony, to wit: Ratu Vu, Buli Malolo, and others. 5. That he did, on the 12th of April last past, at Nawaqa, of malice aforethought, kill and slay several persons, names unknown, against the peace of Her Majesty and the said Colony.	Guilty. I am a professional murderer for hire. That is my profession. I have not murdered any one since I became a Christian. *Question by the Court.*—When did you become a Christian?—*A.* When I was taken by your force. *Q.* When was that?—*A.* Last week.	Admits guilt	Guilty	Death	Executed.

No.	Name.	Charges.	Plea.	Evidence.	Judgment.	Sentence	Remarks.
30	Tabuarua, of Beinana.	1. That he did, between the 1st day of March and the 12th day of April last past, conspire with certain others, to wit: Mudu, Ulunigili, Na Bisiki, Luilagi, Reba, and others, to set on foot murderous raids upon peaceable subjects of the Queen in this Colony. 2. That at divers times and places, between the 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Nawaqa, Tovei, Vatuma, Koroivatu, Vunasarawa, Deva, Vunamoli, Naloqi, Vunamatabuco, and elsewhere, he did bear arms in such raids, and against the duly constituted authorities of the said Colony. 3. That at divers times and places, between the said 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Korovutuma, Bukutia, Navua, Matanavatu, Qalimari, and Korovuselo, he has, by force of arms, resisted the arrest of certain persons charged with the crime of murder; and was accessory to the unlawful killing and slaying of divers of Her Majesty's subjects, killed in the endeavour to make such arrests. 4. That he was accessory to the killing and murdering of divers of Her Majesty's peaceable subjects in the said Colony, to wit: Ratu Vu, Buli Malolo, and others. 5. That he did, on the 12th of April last past, at Nawaqa, of malice aforethought, kill and slay Tamuse, Nuata, and Ni-mai-wali, against the peace of Her Majesty and the said Colony.	Guilty. I am a prisoner from my birth. That is my calling by my birth.	Admits guilt	Guilty	Death	This prisoner escaped in the course of the night.
31	Bebe, Tabunivonu.	1. That at divers times and places, between the 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Tatuba, Wala, and elsewhere, he did bear arms against the duly constituted authorities of this Colony. 2. That at divers times and places, between the said 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Korovutuma, Bukutia, Mavua, Matanavatu, Qalimari, and Korovuselo, he has, by force of arms, resisted the arrest of certain persons charged with the crime of murder; and was accessory to the unlawful killing and slaying of divers of Her Majesty's subjects, killed in the endeavour to make such arrests.	Guilty .. .. I deserted from Nadromai during the attack on that place, and joined the enemy, burning a Christian village on the way.	Admits guilt	Guilty, but recommended to mercy	Death, but recommended to mercy	Sentence commuted to one of three years' imprisonment with hard labour.
32	Namunamu, Priest of the Kalouvatu.	1. That he did, between the 1st day of March and the 12th day of April last past, conspire with certain others, to wit: Mudu, Ulunigili, Na Bisiki, Luilagi, Reba, and others, to set on foot murderous raids upon peaceable subjects of the Queen in this Colony. 2. That at divers times and places, between the 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Nawaqa, Tovei, Vatuma, Koroivatu, Vunasarawa, Deva, Vunamoli, Naloqi, Vunamatabuco, and elsewhere, he did bear arms in such raids, and against the duly constituted authorities of the said Colony. 3. That at divers times and places, between the said 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Korovutuma, Bukutia, Mavua, Matanavatu, Qalimari, and Korovuselo, he has, by force of arms, resisted the arrest of certain persons charged with the crime of murder; and was accessory to the unlawful killing and slaying of divers of Her Majesty's subjects, killed in the endeavour to make such arrests. 4. That he was accessory to the killing and murdering of divers of Her Majesty's peaceable subjects in the said Colony, to wit: Ratu Vu, Buli Malolo, and others. 5. That he did, on the 12th of April last past, at Nawaqa, of malice aforethought, kill and slay Tamuse, Nuata, and Ni-mai-wali, against the peace of Her Majesty and the said Colony.	Guilty	Admits guilt	Guilty	Death	Executed.

No.	Name.	Charges.	Plea.	Evidence.	Judgment.	Sentence.	Remarks.
33	Vacivacibeka.	1. That he did, between the 1st day of March and the 12th day of April last past, conspire with certain others, to wit: Mudu, Ulunigili, Na Bisiki, Luilagi, Reba, and others, to set on foot murderous raids upon peaceable subjects of the Queen in this Colony. 2. That at divers times and places, between the 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Nawaqa, Lovei, Vatuma, Koroivatu, Vunasarawa, Deva, Vunamoli, Naloqi, Vunamatabuco, and elsewhere, he did bear arms in such raids, and against the duly constituted authorities of the said Colony. 3. That at divers times and places, between the said 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Korovutuma, Bukutia, Mavua, Matanavatu, Qalimari, and Korovuselo, he has, by force of arms, resisted the arrest of certain persons charged with the crime of murder; and was accessory to the unlawful killing and slaying of divers of Her Majesty's subjects, killed in the endeavour to make such arrests. 4. That he was accessory to the killing and murdering of divers of Her Majesty's peaceable subjects in the said Colony, to wit: Ratu Vu, Buli Malolo, and others. 5. That he did, on the 12th of April last past, at Nawaqa, of malice aforethought, kill and slay Tamuse, Nuata, and Ni-mai-wali, against the peace of Her Majesty and the said Colony.	Not Guilty. "I request that Tanina Karavu may be called as a witness." Case postponed to allow of the above witness being examined.				
34	Lokaloka, Chief of Korovatuma.	1. That he did, between the 1st day of March and the 12th day of April last past, conspire with certain others, to wit: Mudu, Na Bisiki, Ulunigili, Luilagi, Reba, and others, to set on foot murderous raids upon peaceable subjects of the Queen in this Colony. 2. That at divers times and places, between the 12th day of April and the 23d day of June in the present year, to wit: at Batiri, on the 17th of April last, and elsewhere, he did bear arms in such raids, and against the duly constituted authorities of the said Colony. 3. That at divers times and places, between the said 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Matanavatu, on the 18th of June, he has, by force of arms, resisted the arrest of certain persons charged with the crime of murder; and was accessory to the unlawful killing and slaying of divers of Her Majesty's subjects, killed in the endeavour to make such arrests. 4. That he was accessory to the killing and murdering of divers of Her Majesty's peaceable subjects in the said Colony, to wit: Batikobulu, Jinnia, Seruaya, Navue, Salome, Namoli, Tonasiga, Tovidrin, Wagaiwai, Tukuieri, Sidrai, Qaidawarau, and Cairisa. 5. That he did, on the 17th of April last past, at Batiri, of malice aforethought, kill and slay Batikobulu, Jinnia, Seruaya, Navue, Salome, Namoli, Tonasiga, Tovidrin, Wagaiwai, Takuieri, Sidrai, Quaidawarau, and Cairisa, against the peace of Her Majesty and the said Colony.	Guilty, except on fifth charge ..	Admits guilt	Guilty of four first charges.	Death; but recommended to mercy.	Sentence commuted by his Excellency to five years' imprisonment, with hard labour.

No.	Name.	Charges.	Plea.	Evidence.	Judgment.	Sentence.	Remarks.
35	Korovuku.	1. That he did, between the 1st day of March and the 12th day of April last past, conspire with certain others, to wit: Mudu, Na Bisiki, Ulunigili, Luilagi, Reba, and others, to set on foot murderous raids upon peaceable subjects of the Queen in this Colony. 2. That at divers times and places, between the 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Nawaqa, Tovei, Vatuma, Koroivatu, Vunasarawa, Deva, Vunamoli, Naloqi, Vunamabuco, and elsewhere, he did bear arms in such raids, and against the duly constituted authorities of the said Colony. 3. That at divers times and places, between the said 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Korovatuma, Bukutia, Navua, Matanavatu, Qalimari, and Korovuselo, he has, by force of arms, resisted the arrest of certain persons charged with the crime of murder; and was accessory to the unlawful killing and slaying of divers of Her Majesty's subjects, killed in the endeavour to make such arrests. 4. That he was accessory to the killing and murdering of divers of Her Majesty's peaceable subjects in the said Colony, to wit: Ratu Vu, Buli Malolo, and others. 5. That he did, on the 12th of April last past, at Nawaqa, of malice aforethought, kill and slay Tamuse, Nuata, and Ni-mai-wali against the peace of Her Majesty and the said Colony.	Guilty	Admits guilt	Guilty	Death, but recommended to mercy	Sentence commuted to three years' imprisonment with hard labour.
36	Yadrasa.	1. That he did, between the 1st day of March and the 12th day of April last past, conspire with certain others, to wit: Mudu, Na Bisiki, Ulunigili, Luilagi, Reba, and others, to set on foot murderous raids upon peaceful subjects of the Queen in this Colony. 2. That at divers times and places, between the 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Nawaqa, Tovei, Vatuma, Koroivatu, Vunasarawa, Deva, Vunamoli, Naloqi, Vunamabuco, and elsewhere, he did bear arms in such raids, and against the duly constituted authorities of the said Colony. 3. That at divers times and places, between the said 12th day of April and the 23rd day of June in the present year, to wit: at Korovatuma, Bukutia, Navua, Matanavatu, Qalimari, and Korovuselo, he has, by force of arms, resisted the arrest of certain persons charged with the crime of murder; and was accessory to the unlawful killing and slaying of divers of Her Majesty's subjects, killed in the endeavour to make such arrests. 4. That he was accessory to the killing and murdering of divers of Her Majesty's peaceable subjects in the said Colony, to wit: Ratu Vu, Buli Malolo, and others. 5. That he did, on the 12th of April last past, at Nawaqa, of malice aforethought, kill and slay Tamuse, Nuata, and Ni-mai-wali, against the peace of Her Majesty and the said Colony.	Guilty	Admits guilt	Guilty	Death, but recommended to mercy.	Sentence commuted to two years' imprisonment with hard labour.

No. 14.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(*Received October* 10.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, August* 30, 1876.

I HAVE in another despatch forwarded to your Lordship a letter from Captain Knollys, recommending for reward members of the force under his command.

2. I am, however, desirous of recommending in a special manner two of the persons who have taken part in the recent operations, and who I should desire to see receive some mark of Her Majesty's gracious approval and favour. These are Captain Knollys himself, and the Roko Tui Ba and Tasawas.

3. Captain Knollys has performed the delicate and difficult task committed to him with rare tact, judgment, and ability, and the brilliant success which has attended the whole of the late operations must in a great degree be attributed to his forethought and good sense.

Though enjoying, in virtue of the Horse Guards' Circular of 1874 the local rank of Captain whilst employed on my Staff, he, in fact, only holds the rank of Lieutenant in Her Majesty's 32nd regiment of infantry. He has had, however, over ten years' service, and is near the top of the Lieutenant's list. The important services which he has now rendered to the Colony will not, I trust, be allowed to pass without recognition.

4. The Roko Tui Ba and Tasawas is one of the ablest of the native Chiefs. He has afforded to Captain Knollys the most zealous and efficient help which has rendered the attainment of the objects of the expedition far less difficult than it would otherwise have been, and he has shown a degree of gallantry not often equalled in removing from a burning house, with the aid of only three assistants, one of them his own servant, nearly the whole of the powder of the force, the explosion of which would have caused a fearful loss of life.

Before the work was done the house was so thoroughly on fire that the Roko and his companions had to creep on their hands and knees to avoid the flames, and the kegs of powder had become so hot that they could not be touched by the hand, and had to be rolled into running water. This conspicuous act of gallantry, by which the whole force was preserved from imminent peril, will, I trust, receive some acknowledgment from Her Majesty.

5. I would also recommend that the two other Roko Tuis engaged in the late operations—Roko Tui Nadroga and Roko Tui Namosi—should receive a token of approval, and I would suggest that I should for this purpose be authorized to procure for each of them, at a moderate cost, a plain gold ring, to be worn as a mark of the sense entertained of their services by the Colonial Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. GORDON.

No. 15.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(*Received October* 10.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, August* 30, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a Report by Captain Knollys, of the movements of the native force under his command in Colo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. GORDON.

P.S.—I have been obliged to defer my own General Report on the late disturbances until next mail.

A. G.

Inclosure 1 in No. 15.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to you, for his Excellency the Governor's information, the operations for the suppression of the late disturbances in the interior of Viti Levu and for the punishment of those concerned in them.

With regard to the first outbreak of the cannibals, it is unnecessary for me to report further than to state that actual deeds of violence were first committed on or about April 12 by some of the heathen tribes living on the Sigatoka River. These were immediately followed by others, and in a short space of time the whole of the tribes living on the Sigatoka River, with the exception of Nadrau, Beimana, and some detached towns in the neighbourhood of the latter, were in a state of disaffection to the Government.

In accordance with his Excellency's orders, I took command of the force in the interior on May 2, with instructions to get possession of those who had been concerned in the outrages, and to exact obedience to the orders of Her Majesty's Government.

This was to be accomplished by means of the armed constabulary and native levies raised in each district of the Colony.

The Sigatoka River passes from its source to its mouth through a country not very heavily wooded but extremely mountainous near the head, becoming less so as the river approaches the sea.

Within twelve or fifteen miles of the east bank, however, a large and dense forest extends for a considerable portion of the river's length. This forest country is occupied by the Wai-ni-mala tribe, who have remained faithful to Government.

It was the intention of our operations to drive the mountaineers towards a common centre, when they could be surrounded by the different forces employed and obliged to give themselves up to the mercy of the Government, taking care meanwhile to prevent their escape to the forest country, where it would have been most difficult to get hold of them and to protect the tribes and towns in the neighbourhood of the disturbances.

The measures decided on to gain these ends were as follows:—

The armed constabulary, augmented by contingents from various districts, were, under my command, to penetrate to Nadrau, which has remained faithful, and which, being situated near the head of the river, was also near the head of the disturbed country.

Descending from Nadrau through Vatu Sila and Nuga Koro, I intended to drive down the mountaineers to the neighbourhood of Beimana.

Mr. A. J. L. Gordon meanwhile was charged with the duty of raising a force in the country near the Sigatoka mouth, and driving the cannibals in that part of the mountains up the river toward the same point as the one I was advancing on.

The force left in charge of the Government camp at Nasaucoko could protect the friendly towns situated in its neighbourhood, which were those most threatened, and could prevent the mountaineers from passing to the westward; and the Wai-ni-malans, whom Mr. Carew, the Resident Commissioner, was instructed to set in motion, could prevent the escape of the disaffected people into the dense forest country.

This plan was followed in its main points, but owing to unexpected delays it was found impossible to drive the mountaineers to the common centre fixed on so simultaneously as was desired. This, however, had no bad results, as Beimana, which remained true, acted as a barrier in the centre of the operations, and no large body of mountaineers ever passed it.

I took command at Nasaucoko on May 2, 1876, intending to quit it as soon as reliefs could be obtained from other districts to occupy it after I had taken the Fiji armed constabulary to Nadrau.

I was unable to obtain these reliefs and to march my force from Nasaucoko until June 8. On that day I marched from Nasaucoko, leaving it occupied by a body of men from Nadi under the command of Mr. Le Hunte, whose force was shortly raised to about 200 by the arrival of contingents from Bua and Macuala.

I reached Lagunu, Ba, the point on the coast from which I intended to penetrate to Nadrau, on June 15. At this place I obtained an auxiliary force of about 250 men from the Ba and Ra districts, who also acted as carriers for the ammunition and small amount of baggage with which we could burden ourselves.

The force of armed constabulary under me was 150 men, of whom about 80 were armed with Snider rifles.

Leaving Sagunu on June 17, I arrived with my force at Nadrau on June 21.

We were most warmly welcomed at this place, which is the principal town of the district of that name. The Chiefs and people were much relieved at our arrival, as they had been undergoing considerable danger and annoyance from the disaffected tribes which nearly surrounded them.

Immediately after the native ceremonies had been duly observed, I made preparations for commencing an attack on the tribe of Vatu Sila, situated on the Sigatoka, immediately below Nadrau, and was able to make my first advance on June 26.

My force was now augmented by about 100 men from Nadrau, and consequently consisted of 150 disciplined natives and 350 auxiliaries; in all about 500 men.

On June 26 we entered and took possession of the town of Na Veiyaraki, the principal town of the Vatu Sila tribe, and a small neighbouring town named Nai Taubale. A slight resistance was offered at one or two points, but the place was taken without difficulty and without loss of life.

Tavua-i-Colo, another town of Vatu Sila, situated on the river about a mile below Na Veiyaraki, was immediately abandoned by the mountaineers, who took to the bush in the neghbouring mountains.

Mr. Gordon had, meanwhile, raised a force of 1,200 men from the Nadroga, Namosi, Serua, and Koroi-na-sau tribes, and formed a strong line of forts at Na Valili, on the lower Sigatoka, by which the friendly tribes were protected from danger.

The scene of his operations was so far removed from mine that I cannot do better than to refer to his report to his Excellency on his proceedings.

On May 25th, Mr. Gordon attacked and destroyed the three towns of Mairia, Koro Kula, and Navala.

Finding that farther delay would discourage his force, Mr. Gordon attacked and captured Koroi Vatuma on June 7, and Bukutia was abandoned on the following day.

Both of these places are very strong by nature, and were well fortified, the mountaineers believing that they were impregnable.

On June 18th, after the capture of some of the smaller towns, Matanavatu, a strong fort on an isolated and almost inaccessible rock of great elevation, was captured.

On June 21st, Mr. Gordon commenced an attack on the Qalimari towns, and taking the whole of the towns, the disaffected tribes on the Lower Sigatoka surrendered to him on the 22nd June, being barred from further retreat by Beimana.

His work was thus successfully completed before I was able to move far towards him; but, as I have before stated, the position of Beimana and Nasaucoko served as a barrier to prevent those against whom I was operating from passing into the country which had been the scene of his movements.

As I informed you before, the mountaineers of Vatusila had, after being expelled from Na Veiyaraki, Tavua-i-Colo, and Nai Taubale, taken to the bush in the mountains. There were also with them the inhabitants of Vatu Koro, a town of the same tribe, and some men from Naqaqa and Nacawanisa, who had come to their assistance.

I had continually to send out expeditions to endeavour to secure them, as I was unable to leave Nadrau unprotected so long as they were at large, and in the neighbourhood; but, up to the 12th of July, I only captured a small number, the mountaineers being very cautious and watchful.

There were also some collisions between our foraging parties and the mountaineers.

On that day I attacked the caves of Nadua, in the Nacawanisa district, where a considerable body of the cannibals had assembled.

The position is a strong one, and was vigorously defended for a short time, when the mountaineers fled, after losing six killed and many wounded, and leaving a number of prisoners and women and children in our hands. Only one man was slightly wounded in the force under my command.

On July 13, Mr. A. J. L. Gordon, with sixty-three men from Lau and Cakandrovi, joined the force under my command.

On July 16th I attacked the caves of Naquaqua Tabua, and captured the whole of the inhabitants after two days' blockade.

These caves are situated near Loba-na-Koro, a Fuza-Koro town, and form a strong position on the river.

I captured this place without loss of life to either party, only one man in my force being slightly wounded. A good supply of food, and a number of fire-arms, with some ammunition, fell into our hands.

On July 23rd I attacked the caves of Nanuwai, in the Nacawanisa district, which were occupied by a strong body of cannibals belonging to that tribe. The occupants were prepared to make a strong resistance, and the place being impossible to storm, I was forced to blockade it for six days, making the whole of the occupants prisoners on the 29th.

The loss of the force under my command in this affair was four killed and two severely wounded. A number of the men were also slightly wounded.

We took a large number of prisoners, of whom many had been wounded in this and in previous affairs; we also took a considerable quantity of muskets and other arms.

The people from Wai-ni-mala, who had been set in motion by Mr. Carew, had, during the past month, occupied all the Nura Koro towns on the east side of the Sigatoka, with the exception of one or two very small ones, and had reduced that part of the mountains to tranquillity.

They had sent to his Excellency at Nasaucoko the fire-arms and tokens of submission from the inhabitants of these towns. They had also taken the Naqaqa towns of Vatula, Balemai, and Matawalu, a portion of whose inhabitants were in their hands, and were transferred by them to my charge after I arrived at Vatula, the remainder having escaped into the bush.

After the capture of the caves of Nanuwai the territory in the neighbourhood of Nadrau was safe from further disturbance, the disaffected cannibals of Vatsula and Nacawanisa being either prisoners or fled to the towns of Wai-ni-mala, by whose Chiefs they were afterwards handed over to me.

Finding that the number of prisoners in my hands was very inconvenient, I decided to send those least implicated to the coast towns of Sagunu and Tavua; I accordingly only reserved about eighty of the most important, either from their rank or crimes, to be tried by the Commissioner, and sent the remainder, and the whole of the women and children, as prisoners to the above-mentioned towns.

On August 2, I left Na Veiyaraki, with the whole force under my command and the prisoners, and arrived at Vatula on the following day, where the trials by the Resident Commissioner of the more implicated offenders, and the execution of those on whom sentence of death had been passed, and confirmed by his Excellency, took place on the 8th and 9th August respectively.

On August 10, the contingents from Bar Tavua and Ra started for their homes, and the remainder of the force marched to Nasaucoko.

On August 15 the contingents from Lau, Cakandrove, Macuata, Bua, and Kadavu, together with a small party of the Fiji armed constabulary, and the prisoners under sentence of imprisonment, left Nasaucoko, on their way to Levuka.

All disturbance is now completely at an end. A certain number of the former inhabitants of the towns are still in the bush, but are not numerous enough to cause any anxiety, and can thoroughly be kept in check, and gradually arrested, by the usual force of armed constabulary in the mountains.

From the example that has been made of a few of the ringleaders, and from the almost total loss of their arms, I am convinced that neither now nor at any future period within the next ten years will these mountaineers cause any serious trouble to Her Majesty's Government.

Mr. Le Hunte, in command of the camp at Nasaucoko, is now taking measures for the arrest of those in the bush, and for the visits of those towns which were occupied by the people of Wai-ni-mala.

(Signed) L. T. KNOLLYS, 32*nd Light Infantry*,
Commanding in Colo.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

Inclosure 2 in No. 15.

DESPATCHES FROM THE INTERIOR.—THE following letters from Mr. Gordon, in command of the auxiliary friendly troops, to the Chief Secretary, will no doubt be read with much interest:—

"*Laqere Levu, opposite Matanavatu, Sigatoke River, Head-Quarters,*
"Sir, "*Nadroga Auxiliary Force, June* 19, 1876.

"I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt this day of your letter of the 9th instant, conveying a request from his Excellency the Governor that I should furnish you with weekly reports of the proceedings of the auxiliary force under my orders.

"2. As I have already fully communicated the nature of my movements up to this time to Mr. Carew, the Resident Commissioner, and as I had the honour of meeting you personally at Cuvu on the 12th instant, I deem that it will not be necessary for me to do more than recapitulate briefly the operations which took place prior to the latter date.

"3. Before doing so, however, I think it only due to the Chiefs of the various tribes of which my force is composed, to state that I confine my powers among them entirely to the general direction of movements, the preservation of harmony and goodwill, and the enforcement of the wishes of the Governor with regard to the treatment of prisoners, &c. The detail of attack and defence I leave to the judgment of the Chiefs themselves, so that I cannot claim any credit for the various successes that have attended our movements.

"4. At the latter end of April, and shortly after the first outbreak of the mountaineers, and the massacre of the Christian inhabitants of the Batiri villages, I was instructed by the Governor to raise the above-mentioned force in conjunction with Captain Olive. This we proceeded to do, and before Captain Olive returned to his duties at Levuka a considerable number of men had been collected and sent to form a camp on Sigatoke River. This camp was established at Navilili, on the right bank of the Sigatoke River, and about ten miles above the Sigatoke native town. The force, as it now exists, is composed of the Taba ni Vonu, Bati ni Vanua, and Vua Sina, Nadroga tribes, under the command of Ratu Luki, the Roko Tui, and the various Bulis of that district; a detachment of 125 Namosi men, commanded by Matanitabua, the Roko Tui of Namosi; a large number of Serua men under Gaga Bokola, Buli of Serua; small detachments from Navolla, Vatukarasa, and the Islands of Malolo and Vatulele, under Bulis Manumanunivudi, Vakayavanuku and Ratu Na Vu respectively; and, lastly, a friendly mountain tribe from Koroinasau, commanded by their Chief Ra Balabala. This force amounts to the number of somewhat over 1,000 fighting men.

"5. I joined the camp (Navalili) on the 23rd ultimo. The Kai Colo at that time were occupying in considerable force two strongholds, Bakutia and Korovatuma, on the opposite side of the river, and about four miles in a direct line from our front; while, on our left, at a distance of about six miles, were situated (close to the river and on the same side as Bukutia) Mairia, Korokula, and Navala, three cannibal towns not half-a-mile apart from each other. From these towns, backed by Bukutia and Korovatuma, marauding parties were in the habit of making raids upon the Nadroga boundary towns and plantations. The Kai Colo were, as we ascertained, busily engaged in fortifying these positions with strong palisades and earthworks.

"6. As the taking of these latter places would relieve the Nadroga district from all immediate danger, and also open to us a large supply of food, I decided to attack them; and on the 25th ultimo they were taken by assault, and destroyed by my orders, the cannibals flying after a short resistance to Bukutia. In this action three of our men were wounded, the loss to the cannibals being two killed and many wounded.

"7. My orders at this time were to refrain from attacking Bukutia or Korovatuma, and as I found no small difficulty in restraining the force from doing so, it was necessary to keep the men fully employed, and as a means of doing so I gave permission to the Chiefs to endeavour, when opportunities offered, to cut off marauding parties of the Kai Colo, and also, where possible, to obtain food from their plantations.

"8. In taking advantage of this permission, the Serua men, with those from Koroinasau, fell in on the 31st ultimo with a war party from Qalemari and Koroi-

vatuma, apparently on their way to attack the Serua camp. The Qalemari were driven back over the range of hills which lies between Navalili and their district, and the Koroivatuma people fled to their stronghold closely pursued by a portion of the Serua band, which like the cannibals had separated into two parties when the attack began. In this affair one Serua man was killed, and his body captured and eaten by the cannibals, the Kai Colo losing three men and one woman, and seven were wounded by our men but escaped capture. The woman killed was a noted priestess and fighting woman of the Qalemari tribe.

"9. On the 3rd instant, Mr. Carew arrived at Navalili from the Wai-ni-Mala, and gave me permission to attack Bukutia and Koroivatuma, and to advance the camp towards Qalemari as far as Matanavatu, another stronghold of the Kai Colo, about four miles above Mavua, on the left bank of the river.

"10. On the 7th instant, Koroivatuma was attacked, and fell into our hands close upon sundown, the cannibals flying to Bukutia, which place they abandoned during the night, and on the morning of the 8th I gave orders for both places to be destroyed. From their position it would have been useless, and with our numbers impossible, to hold these places, a high range of mountains lying between them and the next object of our attack. In the taking of Koroivatuma our loss was three killed and two wounded, while of the cannibals four were killed, twenty wounded, and one prisoner (wounded) taken.

"11. I next gave orders to attack Matanavatu, and the whole camp moved up to this place on the 14th instant, and that evening attacked and took the town situated at the foot of a high rocky and wooded stronghold which rises above it, and to which the cannibals in very large numbers fled. Two of the Kai Colo were wounded, but we suffered no loss.

"12. The next day we attacked and drove the Kai Colo from another town at the foot of the opposite side of the rock. We here obtained a good supply of food, but not without a sharp skirmish, in which two of the cannibals were badly wounded and carried off by their friends. There was no loss on our side.

"13. On Saturday, the 18th instant, the rock fortress itself fell into our hands, with quantities of food and plunder. The cannibals, taken by surprise, fled in great confusion to Qalemari. From the amount of food stored up in the fortress, it is evident that this place was considered impregnable, and that the Kai Colo were prepared for a long siege. I regret to announce the loss on our side in this engagement of Ratu Na Vu, Buli of Malolo, who was shot through the head while gallantly leading his men to the assault. The Kai Colo lost no less than thirty-eight killed and ten prisoners.

"14. All the cannibal towns on this side of Qalemari territory are now in my hand, and I only await instructions from Nasaucoko to make an attack upon Qalemari itself, whither all the refugees from the various towns already taken are congregated."

"Sir, "*Laqere Levu, opposite Matanavatu, June* 24, 1876.

"I am happy to say that I am now able to report the complete overthrow of the whole of the Qalemari tribes, and the destruction of their towns and strongholds. Mudu and the other principal Chiefs of the Qalemari tribes, the Chiefs of all the other tribes in revolt south of Qualemari, and a very large number of other prisoners, together with some 200 muskets, have fallen into our hands.

"2. Having received permission from Mr. Carew to proceed against the Qalemari 'with the utmost activity,' I commenced operations on the 21st instant, by driving the enemy from all the towns, viz., Koroira, Bociwa, Iwaiya, Wakuku, and Kucuvi, bordering on the river. This was successfully done with a loss to the enemy of one man killed (a notorious priest of their war spirit), three men on our side being slightly wounded.

"3. On this day we effected a junction with reinforcements sent from Nasaucoko and Beimana respectively; and while the Nadroga force returned to Laqere-levu for the night, the reinforcements were ordered to encamp to the north of the mountain range of precipitous hills thickly covered with forest, of which the Qalemari territory chiefly consists.

"4. During the night I received intelligence that the enemy, or at all events a certain number of the principal ringleaders, with their followers, had surrendered at discretion to the Chief of Beimana.

"5. Owing, however, to an unfortunate misapprehension, arising through

native jealousies, Mudu, and a large number of those surrendering, were induced to go over to the Nadi district, thereby frustrating a prearranged plan with Koli Koli (Chief of Beimana), by which I had hoped to capture the whole of the enemy at Beimana.

"6. Fortunately, however, being warned in time, search parties were sent in several directions to the Nadi border, towns and elsewhere, whose researches, as I will hereafter mention, were attended with entire success.

"7. In the meantime, having occupied the now deserted Qalemari stronghold of Qoroqorovakatini, Na Koro Levu, and Korovu Solo, in which places the enemy had abandoned enormous quantities of stored food, Koli Koli handed over to me such of the refugees as had escaped to Beimana, and in the course of the 22nd, a large number of prisoners, with their wives and children, were brought in from other places to which they had fled.

"8. The 23rd was also successfully spent in searching the country for refugees, and to-day Mudu, with a band of followers, was captured by the Taba ni Vonu tribe at Na Gogo, a Christian village in the Nadi district.

"9. I am very glad to be able to report the uniform forbearance, and even kindness, with which the prisoners are treated by their captors. In one case only have I been obliged to interfere and save a man from what at the worst, however, only amounted to mockery, and which was to a certain extent excusable, from the fact of his being recognized by the Nadrogans as one who had in a former skirmish deliberately taken aim with his musket at their Chief, who escaped only by a hair-breadth, the ball killing a higher Chief (Buli Malolo), who stood close behind him. When the former cruel usage of Fijians towards prisoners are recollected, it speaks volumes for the real change which Christianity has effected in the habits of the people, and the real hold which it possesses on them, that, even at a time of such intense excitement, there should have been no return to practices still in vogue among their heathen countrymen.

"10. As the work for which the auxiliaries in this district were called together is now happily finished, I propose to return to the coast as soon as possible, having due regard to the safe custody of the prisoners already captured, and the further search for those who still remain hidden in the caves of the mountains and the villages of the adjacent country."

"Sir, "*Nasigatoke, July* 1, 1876.

"I have the honour to report that the auxiliary force under my command moved down to this place on the 27th ultimo, bringing with them 357 prisoners, with their wives and children, amounting in all to 848 souls.

"2. The women and children were at once distributed for safe custody, according to their tribes and families, among the several Nadroga towns, viz., Vona, Naruku, Tauwau, Nasama, Cuvu, Naidiri, Yadua, Voua, Sigatoka, Vatukarasa, and Vuivuitoa.

"3. His Excellency the Governor arrived at Cuvu, by the Government steamer 'Fitzroy,' on the 25th ultimo, and proceed on the 28th to this place.

"4. Thirty-seven of the prisoners, including the principal intigators of the outbreak, and those who had rendered themselves specially notorious by murder and cannibalism, were tried before me on the 29th ultimo, as Assistant Commissioner, under Ordinances No. 16 of 1875 and No. 18 of 1876, with respect to the judicial administration of districts exempted from the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. Of these thirty-five were condemned to death, one acquitted for want of evidence, and one case postponed for further investigation. Fifteen of those sentenced to death I recommended to the Governor's mercy; and in these, and five other cases, his Excellency was pleased to commute the penalty pronounced to one of imprisonment. In fifteen cases, however, the sentence was confirmed by his Excellency, and carried into execution yesterday morning, except in the case of Tabuarua, a professional poisoner, who escaped during the night.

"5. So soon as the records of the proceedings of the Court can be fairly copied they shall be forwarded to you. In most cases their guilt was distinctly admitted by the prisoners; and in those cases where it was denied it was clearly proved by the testimony of witnesses.

"6. After the execution, the male prisoners were sent to the different villages

where their wives and children had already preceded them, there to await his Excellency's further orders.

"I have, &c.
(Signed) "ARTHUR GORDON,
"The Hon the Colonial Secretary, "*Deputy Commissioner for Colo.*
&c. &c. &c."

Inclosure 3 in No. 15.

Map of the Fiji Islands (Viti Levu).

No. 16.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received October 10.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, August* 30, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit a copy of a letter from Captain Knollys, submitting a list of names of men deserving of some reward beyond that given to their comrades for services performed in the suppression of the late disturbances in Viti Levu.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. GORDON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 16.

Sir, *Nasaucoko, Fiji, August* 12, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to request that you will bring to the notice of his Excellency the Governor the men whose names are in the appended list.

These men are, I am of opinion, deserving of some reward, beyond that given to their comrades, for service performed in the late operations against the cannibals in the interior of Viti Levu.

I have not included in this list the name of Ratu Vuki Roko Tui Ba, as I think it right to make an especial mention of the assistance rendered by him in all the operations which I have undertaken, and of the benefits which his influence with the auxiliary forces has been to Her Majesty's Government. Had it not been for the zeal and patience with which he carried out my orders, and for the good example which he set to the force, I am convinced that the work of reducing the disturbed country to submission to the Government would have proved of far greater difficulty than it has done.

I desire to make especial mention of Roko Tui Ba's successful rescue of the ammunition of the force from destruction when the house in which it was stored caught fire, and was burned to the ground.

This rescue, in which he received valuable help from Corporals Batiliai and Tio Sava, of the Fiji armed constabulary, and Tabua-i-valu, his servant, was effected at great risk to the lives of those concerned, some of the kegs of ammunition being brought out of the house when it could only be entered on the hands and knees, and in such a condition that they had to be thrown into the river before they could be handled.

I wish also especially to bring to his Excellency's notice the services for which I have mentioned the names of Corporal Koli, of the Fiji armed constabulary, and Malakai of the Lau contingent, who each succeeded, at great danger to his own life, in rescuing from within the caves of Manuwai, a comrade who had fallen there mortally wounded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. F. KNOLLYS,
The Colonial Secretary, *Commanding in Colo.*
&c. &c. &c.

VITI LEVU,
FIJI ISLANDS.

(1825 7/77 1678) [F 0 769]

Inclosure 2 in No. 16.

Officers and Men recommended to His Excellency the Governor for Rewards for Good Service in the Disturbances in Colo.

Armed Constabulary.

Officers. — Ratu Levita, Bau; Ratu Sakinsa, Bau; Ratu Rovabokola, Macuata.

Corporal.—Koli, Colo; Goniulu, Bau; Toa, Cakandrove; Ralau, Bua.

Constable.—Vakasoroi, Macuata; Sioni, Macuata; Ciba, Macuata; Wiliame, Macuata; Raquni, Bua; Matiwa, Bua; Ravu, Bua.

Auxiliaries.—Meli, Ba; Qaleqa, Nasolo; Tui Rara, Nasolo; Maneli, Tavua; Drigidrigisoki, Na Qara; Abraham, Ba; Lagi Vala, Ba; Malakai, Lau; Sovoni, Raki Raki.

The following leaders of the parties of auxiliaries are also recommended:—

Ratu Kavuru, Cakandrove; Ratu Gadai, Bua; Ratu Rogigi, Bua; Ratu Sabusakia, Bua; Uraiah, Bua; Malakai, Bua.

The following are recommended for service performed in the rescue of ammunition from a burning house:—

Corporal Batiliai, Bua (Armed Constabulary); Corporal Tio Savu, Bua (Armed Constabulary); Tabuaivalu, Rewa.

(Signed) L. F. KNOLLYS,
Commanding in Colo.

No. 17.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received November 7.)

My Lord, *Nasova, September 23, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, the Resident Commissioner in Colo's abstract of the cases tried by him at Vatula on the 8th and 9th ultimo, referred to in my despatch of the 14th ultimo,* as well as of the covering report of Mr. Carew.

2. I also inclose a copy in full of the record in the case of Na Bisiki.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. GORDON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 17.

Sir, *Levuka, September 20, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the police under Captain Knollys, Aide-de-camp, commanding in Colo, having arrived at Vatula, Nuya Koro district, Colo, with the prisoners of Cawanisa, Vatusela, and Nuya Koro, and the operations against the turbulent tribes of the interior having thus been brought to a successful close, I held a Court for the trial of the principal ringleaders at Vatula Colo, and without the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, on the 8th and 9th August last past.

I forward inclosed an abstract of the Court Register.

Seventy-seven prisoners in all were brought up for trial, nearly the whole of whom pleaded guilty, having been taken red-handed by the police. Of this number 20 were sentenced to death, 3 to five years, 6 to three years, 39 to two years, and 4 to one year's imprisonment with hard labour; also 4 cases were dismissed, and 1 prisoner (Nabisiki) was shot dead by the guards whilst in the act of endeavouring to escape during trial.

A number of other men who were captured at the same time as the above were not proceeded against, it appearing clear that they had merely offered a blind obedience to their Chiefs, and had, moreover, not distinguished themselves against the Government in any marked or decided manner.

Amongst others brought up for trial on this occasion was Nabisiki, a Chief of

* No. 11.

the Nuya Koro tribe, who had, a short time previously, in a spirit of bravado and defiance, visited the camp of Nasaucoko, where he was at once made a prisoner.

This man has, since the annexation of the Colony, manifested on all occasions the utmost animosity to the Government, although the tribe to which he belonged sent two of their leading Chiefs as deputies to the meeting held at Navuso by the late Administrator, Mr. Layard; and, in answer to a direct question put to them, had most unreservedly given their adherence and submission to the British Government.

Nabisiki was the principal "qaqa," or "brave," of this section of the interior of Viti Levu, and had for the past two years exercised a species of direct terrorism over the tribe to which he belonged, and was a man of great determination of character, and of undaunted courage; and he has undoubtedly contributed most materially in fortifying the obstinacy of the tribes of this region in their outbreak and persistent defiance of the authorities previous to the suppression of the disturbances now happily at an end.

Such has been the power exercised by Nabisiki even over the minds of his hereditary enemies, as the "Kai na Mataku," and also those of Nadi and Beimana, that some difficulty appeared likely to occur in procuring evidence sufficient to convict him at the trial; and, but for the circumstance of his having been seen by the police engaged in attacking the friendly village of Wala, and reported in a former despatch, I feel convinced that even the Chiefs of that village, which he had so recently laid close siege to for two entire days, would not have dared to give material evidence against him.

During his trial, although hand-cuffed and surrounded by armed guards, he endeavoured to effect his escape at the point where decisive evidence was about to be adduced, showing his active leadership in the attack on the before-mentioned village, and had succeeded even in reaching the edge of a steep declivity, when he was shot dead by the guards.

On the following morning his Excellency the Governor, who was present throughout the trials, was pleased to commute the sentence of death against twelve of the convicts to five years', and two to ten years', imprisonment with hard labour; the six remaining were then executed upon the same day.

On the following day, the 10th of August, his Excellency held a final meeting of the Chiefs of the auxiliary forces, and made some presents to them for their good behaviour during the suppression of the outbreak, after which the camp broke up, Roko Tui Ba leaving for his district, taking with him the non-combatants of the Meya-Koro and Vatusila tribes, including the women and children.

On the afternoon of the same day, the Governor having left for the camp at Nasaucoko with Captain Knollys and the police and Nadi auxiliaries, I accompanied his Excellency, arriving the same evening.

In conclusion, I have the honour to inform you that on the 14th of August his Excellency left for Sewa and Ovalau, viâ Beimana and the south-coast of Viti Levu, leaving orders for me to follow shortly to Ovalau.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WALTER S. CAREW,
Resident Commissioner for Colo.

The Colonial Secretary,
Levuka.

Inclosure 2 in No. 17.

Register of Cases Summarily determined at Vatula, Colo, August 1876.

Date of Hearing.	Person Charged, &c.	Charge or Complaint.	Prosecutor or Complainant.	Judgment or Sentence.	Remarks.
August 8th	Lewanira	Murder of Sakolevu	Regina	Death	Commuted by his Excellency.
,,	Cakobau	,, ,,	,,	Ditto	Ditto.
,,	Senimaoli of Balemai	Accessory to murder	,,	Two years' hard labour.	
,,	Senemaoli of Nasue	,, ,,	,,	Three years' hard labour.	
,,	Senimaoli of Beimana	Conspiracy	,,	One year's hard labour.	
,,	Tamakoro Komatu	Accessory to murder	,,	Death	Executed, 9th August, 1876.
,,	Roqilagi	,, ,,	,,	Three years' hard labour.	
,,	Nadabarairai	Bearing arms and accessory to murder	,,	Death	Commuted by his Excellency
,,	Batikarkara	Accessory to murder	,,	One year's hard labour.	
,,	Nabetibeti	,, ,,	,,	Two years' hard labour.	
,,	Sabasaba	,, ,,	,,	Death	Ditto.
,,	Letabu	,, ,,	,,	Two years' hard labour.	
,,	Gudruovolili	,, ,,	,,	Three years' hard labour.	
,,	Vunisai	,, ,,	,,	Two years' hard labour.	
,,	Nagatagata	,, ,,	,,	Death	Ditto.
,,	Nagusulevu	,, ,,	,,	Three years' hard labour.	
,,	Visivisiroi	Conspiracy and inciting	,,	Death	Executed, 9th August, 1876.
,,	Drika of Vatukoro	Accessory to murder	,,	Ditto	Commuted by his Excellency.
,,	Nabiaulevu	Bearing arms	,,	Dismissed.	
,,	Nabatiratu	,, ,,	,,	Five years' hard labour.	
,,	Somisomiyagona	Accessory to murder	,,	Death	Executed, 9th August, 1876.
,,	Naqiqiqi	Bearing arms	,,	Five years' hard labour.	
,,	Takoulevu	Accessory to murder	,,	Death	Ditto.
,,	Dran in masi	,, ,,	,,	Three years' hard labour.	
,,	Talotabua	Bearing arms	,,	Ditto.	
,,	Dugunamavola	Accessory to murder	,,	Death	Commuted by his Excellency.
,,	Manutnanunivalu	,, ,,	,,	Ditto	Ditto.
,,	Tavakece	Bearing arms	,,	Two year's hard labour.	
,,	Senimaoli	Bearing arms, &c.	,,	Ditto.	
,,	Rekavoli	,, ,,	,,	Ditto.	
,,	Daulali	Murder	,,	Death	Ditto.
,,	Nauluin Solosolo	Accessory to murder	,,	Two years' hard labour.	
,,	Takaratini	,, ,,	,,	Ditto.	
,,	Vatuvosa	,, ,,	,,	Ditto.	
,,	Vasutere	,, ,,	,,	Ditto.	
,,	Tausara	,, ,,	,,	Ditto.	
,,	Nawakasi	,, ,,	,,	Ditto.	
,,	Rauvia	,, ,,	,,	Ditto.	

Date of Hearing.	Person Charged, &c.	Charge or Complaint.	Prosecutor or Complainant.	Judgment or Sentence.	Remarks.
August 8th	Tanidravata	Accessory to murder	Regina	Two years' hard labour.	
,,	Nabuli	,, ,, ...	,,	Ditto.	
,,	Nabisiki	Bearing arms, &c.	,,	.. ..	Shot dead while in act of absconding during trial.
,,	Bure	Conspiring, &c.	,,	Two years' hard labour.	
,,	Nagusudradra	Accessory to murder	,,	Death	Commuted by his Excellency.
,,	Naganivatulevu	,, ,, ...	,,	Ditto	Ditto.
,,	Tubuinamaka	Bearing arms, &c.	,,	Five years' hard labour.	
,,	Nasauburn	Conspiring, &c.	,,	Dismissed.	
,,	Bole	Accessory to murder	,,	Two years' hard labour.	
,,	Naitaukeinanokonoko	,, ,, ...	,,	Death	Ditto.
,,	Walevu	Bearing arms, &c.	,,	Dismissed.	
,,	Veikara	Accessory to murder	,,	Death	Ditto.
,,	Voliu	Bearing arms, &c.	,,	One year's hard labour.	
,,	Labacece	,, ,, ...	,,	Two years' hard labour.	
,,	Niulele	,, ,, ...	,,	Ditto.	
,,	Rimoa	,, ,, ...	,,	One year's hard labour.	
,,	Danvakatini	,, ,, ...	,,	Two years' hard labour.	
,,	Luicola	Murder	,,	Death	Executed August 9, 1876.
,,	Narukunitabua	,, ...	,,	Ditto	Ditto.
,,	Tukuvakada	Bearing arms, &c.	,,	Two years' hard labour.	
,,	Ulukara	Bearing arms	,,	Ditto.	
,,	Sorovakatini	,, ,, ...	,,	Ditto.	
,,	Taqai	,, ,, ...	,,	Ditto.	
,,	Kadakada	,, ,, ...	,,	Ditto.	
,,	Waqavou	,, ,, ...	,,	Ditto.	
,,	Sorovakatini	,, ,, ...	,,	Ditto.	
,,	Makaseavo	,, ,, ...	,,	Ditto.	
,,	Matavulo	,, ,, ...	,,	Ditto.	
,,	Tananacalevu	,, ,, ...	,,	Ditto.	
,,	Naulivou	,, ,, ...	,,	Ditto.	
,,	Nadabe	,, ,, ...	,,	Ditto.	
,,	Nasauvou	,, ,, ...	,,	Ditto.	
,,	Mataira	,, ,, ...	,,	Ditto.	
,,	Malemaca	,, ,, ...	,,	Ditto.	
,,	Garaiwalu	,, ,, ...	,,	Ditto.	
,,	Nasauvou	,, ,, ...	,,	Ditto.	
,,	Beranariki	,, ,, ...	,,	Ditto.	
,,	Tankei	,, ,, ...	,,	Dismissed.	
,,	Seniwakula	Murder	,,	Death	Commuted by his Excellency.

Levuka, September 20, 1876.

(Signed) WALTER S. CAREW, *Resident Commissioner for Colo.*

Evidence in Regina v. *Na Bisiki, of Vosa.*

HEARD at Vatula Colo on the 8th day of August, 1876, before the Resident Commissioner for Colo and Buli Nadrau and Buli Ni Waka, Native Assessors.

The prisoner is charged for that he did conspire with certain others to set on foot murderous raids upon peaceable subjects of the Queen in this Colony.

Also, that at divers times and places between the 12th day of April and the 1st day of August in the present year, he did bear arms in such raids and against the duly-constituted authorities of the said Colony.

Also, that he was accessory to the killing and murdering of divers of Her Majesty's peaceable subjects in the said Colony, to wit, Koroiloboya, at Satuba, on the 24th April in the present year.

Pleads not guilty to first charge of conspiring.

Pleads guilty to bearing arms against the Government at Wala on or about the 1st May, 1876.

Pleads not guilty to bearing arms against the Government at Satuba.

Nauvelati, of Tenikura, called, says:—

At this stage prisoner made a desperate attempt to escape, and was shot dead by the police.

(Signed) WALTER S. CAREW,
Resident Commissioner for Colo.

No. 18.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received November 7.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, September 26, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a report from Mr. Le Hunte, Commandant at Nasaucoko, giving an account of his proceedings since I left the mountains, and reporting his visit to the towns of the Nuyu-Koro tribe, originally in revolt, but whose submission had been accepted, as reported in my despatch of the 21st June.*

All seems to be proceeding most satisfactorily in the lately-disturbed districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. GORDON.

Inclosure in No. 18.

Sir, *Nasaucoko Camp, Colo, Viti Levu, September 9, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit the following report of my proceedings since the date of the departure of his Excellency the Governor, for his Excellency's information.

On the 15th ultimo Mr. A. J. L. Gordon, Dr. McGregor, the "valu lesi" from Bua, Macuata, Kadavu, Lau, Cakandrove, and Nadi, and sixty-eight prisoners, left this *en route* for Levuka.

On the 15th ultimo Naluve, the Chief of the Mogodro men, and one of his men came to the native town where their wives, who had been brought in previously, were. I detained these men in custody.

On the 20th ultimo I sent a message to Nasue to give notice of my coming with an armed force to occupy their town.

On the 21st Mr. Carew left this for Beimana, and I, accompanied by Ratu Tevita and a force of sixty soldiers and ten of the Nadi officers from Nasaucoko, left for Nasue, where I arrived the same night.

I found that the town was almost empty; the people, being frightened, had fled to the bush.

The following morning (the 22nd) I had what people there were called together and spoke to them, telling them what they had been guilty of, what they were to do, and what we had come to do. I also directed them to pull down the fortifications, which they had done. They gave me four guns and some ammunition.

The people of this town wish to build a town somewhere else, as the land at Nasue is poor and wet.

* No. 1.

The same day I proceeded to Matanibila Levu—a very pretty town on the Wai-ni-vau—which joins the Segatoka just below Vunatawa.

Finding that there were but very few people in the town, and hearing that Vunatawa was empty, the people having fled to the bush, I determined to try and get them in by sending messages through Nabiri, the Chief of the town, to them.

I am glad to say I met with greater success than I anticipated, for instead of five or six decrepit old men and women, there were at least fifty men, women, and children, of all ages, there on the following evening.

The women of the town performed a "meke" after dark, which is a sign that they have no more fear.

I told the Chiefs of Vunatawa, Lewetiakaua, that I would go to his town at noon the next day, and told him to take back his people there the first thing in the morning.

I spent the whole of that day (the 23rd) at Matanabela Levu, and saw with satisfaction that the people were gaining fresh confidence, and losing their fear of the "Government soldiers."

This town is the most important one on the Wai-ni-vau.

The following morning (the 24th) I spoke to the people, who had all assembled at my request.

As I pursued this plan on leaving each one of the towns, I will not refer to it again. They presented five guns and ammunition.

I then proceeded to Vunatawa, a small and ill-built town; a fine new bure had just been accidently burnt; we spent an hour or two here. Two guns were given up, and ammunition.

We then left for Vavalagi, passing through Matanibila Levu on the way. I arrived there in the evening.

This town is a curious town, built in the bed of a rocky stream, the approaches being easily defended by a small force, but the town is exposed to the steep hills on either side.

I found that my plan of sending friendly messages by some one of influence in that part was as successful as before, and as I carried it out in every case, and with success, I need not refer to it again.

I felt that merely to march through the country and see nothing of the people would be of very little service to the Government or interest to myself, so I determined to spend, if necessary, as much time as I could spare in trying to get the towns filled.

This town is of some size, and next in importance to Matanabili Levu of the Wainivan towns. Six guns, &c., were given here.

The following morning, the 25th, I proceeded to Koroilagi, a small town on the high land above the last town, and overlooking the whole of the country to the south. This town is just on the edge of the bush, which stretches away without any interruption to the east side of the island. We spent midday here; two guns, &c. were given up.

I then went on to Matanavatu, a little town perched like a nest at the foot of a high precipice, which forms the top of the high land. This was formerly the leading town of the whole of this country, but the high centre-posts of what were once fine bures are the only remnants of its former state, time and the measles having reduced it to a few miserable houses. Three guns were given here.

The following morning, the 26th, I proceeded to the town of Nabuto, which lies on the road to Namosi. Between Matanavatu and Nabuto there is a continuous bush; but on the south side of Nabuto the bush leads away to the east.

Finding that Nabuto was not in a fit state for occupation (the town having been deserted at the time of the measles, owing to the large number of deaths there), I went on to Naloka, which lies on the other side of the valley, but within a few hundred yards of Nabuto.

Naloka is a small but good town, and I spent Sunday the 27th there.

I regret to report the escape from this place, on the night of the 27th, of two most important prisoners—Sabuviti, the leading devil-priest of this part, and Matailoga, a leading man amongst the northern Naqaqa men. He had escaped before, when taken to Nasaucoko at the time his Excellency was at Vatula. I had accidentally heard of his being in the town of Vavalagi, or, I should say, in the bush close to that town, and was able to get hold of him. Sabuviti I got at Koroilagi. The officer of police whose duty it was to see that these two men were

securely tied up every night omitted on this occasion to do so, and the consequence was that they effected their escape. I have hopes of being able to get them again through the Chiefs of Matanabili Levu and Matanavatu. Three guns were presented here.

On the following day, Monday, the 28th, I proceeded to Naduta, a nice town, to the south-east of Nabuto. This town was occupied by the Naqarawai allies under Roqereqeretabua, a namesake of the Chief of the Wainihiala allies. These people seem to have treated Naduta very roughly, two good bures being burnt by them, as I was informed, in addition to other things which the people complained to me as having been committed by these people. Five guns, &c., were given up here.

On the following morning, the 29th, I left for Jakubu, a small and well-situated town about half-way between Maduta and Vusu. This town has been deserted, the people having gone to live at Vusu, because the Naqarawao people had sent them a message to come away to them, and they were not willing to do so, but were afraid to live at Jakubu lest they should be taken away. On receiving my message, however, the whole of the people had returned with their baggage and property, and were again established in their town. Four guns were given up here. After spending an hour or two there I proceeded to Vusu, a remarkably fine and well-situated town, in the valley of a small river. This town is the best one of the Nuya Koro towns, and is well populated. It is naturally the best one to choose for the leading town in that district. Nine guns were presented here.

The following day, the 30th, I left for Lega, a small, well-built, well-kept town, built in the bed of a stream, surrounded on three sides by high hills, and fortified with pierced stone walls, and also having a fortified outpost. The plantations of this town are remarkably good the taro beds being beautifully kept and irrigated. Ten guns, &c., were presented here. At my orders the fortifications were at once demolished by the people of the town.

The following day, the 31st, I left for Vosadamu, which, together with Driodrio and Nawavuwavu towns, lies on the edge of the bush behind Lega on the top of the highland and overlooking the valley of the Sigatoka to the north and west. Of the three, Vosadamu is much the largest town; Driodrio (Nabisiki's town), smaller and more compact, lies a little beyond to the south; Nawavuwavu being the smallest, and now deserted, lying further back to the east, a short distance away. I may here mention that I recommended the people of this last town to reinhabit it. The population of these three towns is together about 100, a smaller proportion than usual having died during the measles. I may here mention that the people informed me generally throughout this part that those towns lying in the bush, like Matanavatu and Nabuto, suffered much more severely than the towns in the bare country, such as Vutu and Naduta. Some of the Chiefs of the towns we had passed through before, and who had accompanied us to this place, returned to their own towns.

I spent the whole of the 1st of September at Driodrio which, I should have mentioned, we occupied in preference to Vosadamu, and left on the morning of the 2nd for Wala. I stopped on my way down to look at the site of Waibasaga town, and was much struck with the size and regularity in which, as appears from the bases of the houses, it must have been built. It must have been the finest town without doubt in Nuya Koro, and, when everything is quiet again, might with advantage be reoccupied, the objection to its being so for a short time longer is its close proximity to Wala, and as the Wala people are rather inclined to take a strong hand now with these soroed towns, I think it probable that disputes would arise which would prevent that country from being really quiet.

After spending Sunday, the 3rd, at Wala, I started for Nasaucoko on the 4th, paying a visit, on the way, to the caves at Jatuba which are interesting. I was glad to see that the people there are building a town on the flat between the rock on which the old town stood and the river.

I arrived at Nasaucoko on the same evening, having spent a fortnight in work of great interest to myself, and I venture to hope of some use to the Government.

Before leaving this subject I wish to draw your attention to the following people of importance, in the above districts:—

Nabiri—Chief of Matanabili Levu—will, I think, with a little help and watching, be a useful man to the Government—he has a good deal of influence, and

though no doubt he exerted himself against the Government, yet I believe he is anxious now to turn that influence to the benefit of the Government.

Tanoilevu—Chief of Muanavatu—a brother of Nabiri's. I have a good opinion of this man; he accompanied me the whole way to Driodrio, and exerted himself to further my wishes in every way; he and his brother both deserve praise for getting the two prisoners, since escaped, for me, and I hope to be able through them to retake these two men.

Lewatiakana—Chief of Vunatawa. A very bad old man, the originator of the defection of these towns. He is a relation of Nabiri, and came in company with Nabiri along with me to Nabuto. It was my intention to have made a prisoner of him as soon as I left Nabiri, who was ill, at Nabuto, but the old man returned to his town without any warning, and as the two prisoners escaped next night I thought it advisable to say nothing more about him, lest they should get scared, and also his town is easily reached from here, and he can be secured at any time without any trouble.

Robotanabua—Chief of Nabuto. Also a very bad old man; he has acted as a traitor in the late disturbances. I should have made a prisoner of him, but he was too unwell to travel. Both he and Lewatiakana should be removed altogether from the country.

Tanatukatuka—Chief of Vusu—is, I think, likely to be a useful man to the Government.

Vuraniyagona—Chief of Lega—is, I think, a dangerous man, and requires careful watching.

I should have mentioned that the town of Nacau, lying to the north of Koroilagi, and above it in the bush, has been completely deserted for some time. I did not visit it.

Namoli, lying to the east of Vosadamu, and above it in the bush was deserted by Nabisiki and all his people some considerable time ago, and has been occupied by some of the Namosi people ever since. This town, also, I did not visit, though I have had some communication by letter with its Chief, Tinanidaba.

On my arrival at Nasaucoko I found several prisoners concerned in the Vatubau massacre, which took place last year, and one man from Nasolo accused of murdering his wife, in custody. These had been sent from Ba by Roko Tui Ba at Mr. Carew's direction. I have already reported to you the trials of these men, and also some of the Mogodro men who were brought to Nasaucoko, before I left on the Nuya Koro expedition. There are, besides those tried, ten more Mogodro men in the native town, but as there was nothing definite against them, I did not think it necessary to try them; I purpose sending them and their families, and the families of those sentenced, to Roko Tui Ba to await his Excellency's orders respecting them. The Mogodro men have a very bad name, and I would venture to suggest that such steps be taken as may prevent their coming back to this part of the country for some considerable time at any rate.

The prisoners under sentence of imprisonment leave to-day with an escort for Nadi, *en route* to Levuka, per steam-ship "Star of the South." Should no news arrive by the mail to prevent me, I intend to go to Nadrau next week, and return at once.

I omitted to mention that thirteen guns, &c., were given up at Driodrio by the people of that town and Vosadamu, making a total of sixty-six collected from the various towns.

As over 100 had been given at various times to Mr. Carew from this part, I am inclined to think that there are not many guns left behind in the hands of the people of the Nuya Koro towns.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. RUTHVEN LE HUNTE,
Assistant Commissioner for Colo.

The Colonial Secretary,
Levuka.

No. 19.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received November 7.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, September 26, 1876.*

THE inclosed letter would have been forwarded two months ago but for my absence from Levuka, and was overlooked on the last mail-day.

It is somewhat late now to revert to the operations on the Lower Sigatoka, but in justice to Mr. Gordon, the letter ought, I think, to be laid before your Lordship; and in the event of any papers connected with the late troubles being laid before Parliament, or otherwise published, I would especially request that Mr. Heffernan's letter may be included in the number.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. GORDON.

Inclosure in No. 19.

Sir, *Ra, July 13, 1876.*

I HAVE had the honour of reading in the papers Mr. Gordon's report upon the campaign on the Lower Sigatoka, and I perceive that he has not mentioned one incident (I presume because it concerns himself), which, I think, should not be omitted.

2. On the 14th of June, when the army had gone up to attack Koroira, they were saved from certain defeat and probable destruction by Mr. Gordon, with only about ten men, holding a sandspit for nearly an hour which covered a pass from Matanavatu, where a body of the enemy were stationed to attack us in rear while the main body from Naqalimari were to attack us in front. The Naqalimari people made the attack as they had planned, and drove our army in full retreat down the river, and even past the sandspit upon which Mr. Gordon had taken his stand, but he having been reinforced by another body of our troops who had been left in reserve in camp, was enabled not only successfully to repulse the division of the enemy who were driving our men before them, but also to prevent the party in ambush at Matanavatu from coming out to assist their people, and our people, seeing the steady front kept by Mr. Gordon, were thereby encouraged to return and complete the victory by driving the enemy back, with loss to their towns, and also to supply themselves with a large quantity of food which they had been unable to carry off in their hasty retreat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HEFFERNAN,
Interpreter to the Expedition.

The Colonial Secretary,
Levuka.

No. 20.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received November 7.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, September 26, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a message to the Legislative Council recommending the grant of 150*l.* to Mr. E. Heffernan for services rendered in the late disturbances, and of a resolution thereupon adopted by the Board, of which I have the honour to solicit your Lordship's approval.

2. I am aware that, properly speaking, no such grant ought to be proposed without your Lordship's previous sanction, but, as three or four months' delay would have made a very serious difference in the value to Mr. Heffernan of the grant, and, as he is not a salaried member of the Government service, I have ventured in this instance to presume on your Lordship's approval. In other cases, as your Lordship will perceive, I have submitted my proposals to your Lordship for sanction before bringing them to the notice of the Legislative Council.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. GORDON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 20.

Message to the Legislative Council.

(Signed) ARTHUR GORDON.

THE Governor desires to call the attention of the Board to the services rendered during the recent disturbances in Viti Levu by Mr. Edward Heffernan, the interpreter attached to the force employed upon the Lower Sigatoka, and who has also acted as assistant to Mr. Gordon during the late operations.

Mr. Heffernan's activity, intelligence, and judgment deserve the Governor's strong commendation, and his Excellency requests the Board to consider the propriety of voting him a gratuity of 150*l.* in acknowledgment of these services.

By his Excellency's command,

(Signed) ALFRED P. MAUDSLAY,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

July 6, 1876.

Inclosure 2 in No. 20.

Extract from Minutes of Legislative Council, July 6, 1876.

THE Honourable the Acting Colonial Secretary, by permission, moved without notice that his Excellency the Governor be authorized to issue from the Colonial Treasury the sum of 150*l.* as a gratuity to Mr. Edward Heffernan in recognition of services rendered by him as interpreter to the forces on the Lower Sigatoka during the late disturbances on Viti Levu, and as assistant to Mr. Gordon during the late operations.

Seconded by the Honourable the Auditor-General.

Question put and passed.

Expenditure authorized.

No. 21.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received November 7.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, September* 27, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to request your Lordship's sanction for the grant of a gratuity to certain of the gentlemen employed during the late troubles in Viti Levu, both as a pecuniary compensation for the expenses to which they have been put, the hardships to which they have been exposed, and as a mark of recognition of the services they have performed.

2. At the last meeting of the Legislative Council one of the unofficial members desired to move a vote for the grant of money to Mr. Gordon and Captain Knollys, and was only prevented from doing so by my intimation that no such vote could be proposed except by myself or with my authority. He then gave notice that he should put a question to me on the subject at the next meeting of the Board.

3. It is my intention to reply to him that I have brought the services of these gentlemen under your Lordship's notice, but that I have no authority to propose such a vote without your Lordship's previous sanction, and that although I have, under peculiar circumstances, ventured to act without it in the case of Mr. Heffernan, I could not for a moment entertain a thought of doing so in cases where the parties interested were members of my own staff, and, in one instance, connected with me by ties of relationship.

4. The amounts which I request your Lordship's permission to propose to the Council are respectively as follows:—Captain Knollys, 250*l.*; Mr. Gordon, 200*l.*; Dr. McGregor, 200*l.*

5. Captain Knollys was employed in the moutains from the end of April to the end of August. During that time he incurred very considerable private expenses caused by his employment on this service, also spent on behalf of the Government many sums for which it would be difficult to produce vouchers, but which were undoubtedly devoted to public purposes.

6. Mr. Gordon's expenses were not as great as those of Captain Knollys, nor was his employment of quite such long continuance, he having returned for a short time to Levuka between the termination of the operations on the Lower Sigatoka and his going to assist Captain Knollys at Naveizaraki. On this last occasion, however, he contracted a severe and dangerous illness, from which he is as yet by no means recovered, and which will entail on him the expense and inconvenience of a voyage to New Zealand and residence there for some time to regain his strength.

7. Dr. McGregor has done most valuable service, has gone through severe hardships and suffered considerable pecuniary loss in the late operations, and I trust he will be allowed to receive a gratuity equal in amount to that which may be sanctioned for Mr. Gordon.

8. It must be borne in mind that none of these gentlemen have received pay for the performance of functions by no means falling within the sphere of their ordinary duties.

9. I may add that when Mr. Heffernan's gratuity was voted by the Council the whole of the members expressed their anxiety that the services of Captain Knollys and Mr. Gordon should also receive pecuniary acknowledgment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. GORDON.

No. 22.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, November* 30, 1876.

I HAVE had before me your despatches of 26th and 27th of September respectively.*

2. In the former of these despatches you recommend for approval the grant of 150*l.* which had been made by the Legislative Council to Mr. E. Heffernan in recognition of services rendered by him as interpreter and as assistant to Mr. Gordon, and in the latter you request permission to propose to the Council the grant of the several sums of 250*l.* to Captain Knollys, 200*l.* to Mr. A. Gordon and 200*l.* to Dr. McGregor, both as a pecuniary compensation for losses incurred, and as a mark of recognition of their services during the late troubles in Viti Levu.

3. Although the information with which I am supplied is very slight in the case of Mr. Heffernan's services, I am prepared to accede to your wishes in this respect, in full reliance upon your judgment, and in consideration of the grant having been made to a gentleman who is not a salaried officer. Your are also at liberty to propose the grants which you have suggested in favour of the two officers on your personal staff, and of Dr. McGregor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 23.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received January 3, 1877.)

My Lord, *Nasaucoko, October* 27, 1876.

IT affords me the greatest pleasure to be able to inform your Lordship that the lately disturbed districts are rapidly resuming their former condition, or to speak more correctly, are assuming an aspect of security and civilization which they never before presented.

2. The subjugated tribes are rebuilding their towns by the river side and in the plains, but have been forbidden to reoccupy their dismantled strongholds in the mountains. They have universally adopted the wearing of the "Sulu," and have cut their hair short, measures which are supposed to be guarantees of the sincerity of their peaceful intentions.

They have willingly received the Christian teachers who have come among them from other quarters, and will, I believe, never again be the cause of trouble.

* Nos. 20 and 21.

3. But it is among the towns which have remained faithful to the Government that the effects of the greater security established are most apparent.

4. At the beginning of the year, that is to say, before the commencement of the troubles, when these districts were in their ordinary state, the population was all congregated within walled towns, cultivation was either carried on in close proximity to the towns, or else the more distant plantations were visited and worked in arms.

Even when not at war with each other there was constant distrust and suspicion between the different tribes and villages, and especially between Christians and heathens.

The former never forgot that the inhabitants of one of the largest Christian towns of the interior had only a few years ago been induced by false pretences to leave their town, and that 400 of them were treacherously murdered in cold blood by their heathen neighbours.

The heathen, on the other hand, were never free from the suspicion and uneasiness inspired by the apparently irresistible progress of Christianity.

5. Now the scene is wholly different. The towns have spread out beyond their walls, and, except in certain still dangerous localities, no one goes armed.

At this place, since I was last here in the month of August, eighteen new houses have been built outside the walls. At the town of Wala I am informed that quite a large suburb has been formed, and I hear that the same is the case in other places.

Cultivation has enormously increased in area, and is carried on in security and without fear over the whole face of the country.

Every tribe and village now understands that it is now safe from attack on the part of its neighbours, and that any lawless act on their own part will at once meet with punishment.

6. To show how thoroughly this is felt even in districts where no striking display of the force of the Government has been made, I may mention the following circumstance:—

Driodrio is one of the villages which sent in their submission in the month of July, and which consequently, though visited by Mr. Le Hunte, were not taken or molested in the late operations. A man of this town having (not without some provocation) pointed a gun at another man and threatened to shoot him, was immediately arrested by the Chief, and sent here for trial by the Assistant Commissioner. As he had not done any injury, and had some cause for irritation against the man he had threatened, he was dismissed with a caution.

The recognition by the Chief of his own want of power to deal with the case, and his prompt interference to prevent any act of violence, are both highly satisfactory.

7. It will be desirable, and, indeed, necessary, to maintain a force of about 100 native constabulary in the district for some little time to come. I think this necessary, not because I have the slightest apprehension of any fresh outbreak of serious disturbance, but because for some time to come the woods which clothe the great mountains of Mogodro and the ranges near it will give shelter to men of the Mogodro and Nuyahoro tribe who have not surrendered themselves, and who, though at present only anxious to escape observation, might in time become troublesome predatory marauders on the lands of their peaceable neighbours, and might also render unsafe the road to Ba which passes through this region. They are said to be about 80 in number, and I have no doubt they will all gradually come in and surrender themselves, or be made prisoners, as they may be, being excepted from the amnesty.

The police will also be in many ways of essential use and support to the Commissioner in Colo.

8. This armed force I intend to separate entirely from the ordinary police force, with the duties of which they have little to do, and to establish them at a point on the Sigatoka River about five miles east of the present camp. Nasaucoko is not so well suited for a permanent station as the point to which I refer.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. GORDON.

No. 24.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received January 3, 1877.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, November 9, 1876.*

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch of the 20th September,* and am glad to learn that the operations against the disaffected mountain tribes described in my despatches of June and July last have been conceived and carried out in a manner which appears satisfactory to your Lordship.

2. I quite concur in your Lordship's remark with respect to the conduct of trials by the officer commanding the force employed, and your Lordship will perceive from my despatch of the 14th August† that in the subsequent trials at Vatula this irregularity was carefully avoided and the trials conducted by Mr. Carew, the Commissioner for Colo, who had taken no part in any active operations during the troubles. Mr. Carew's services were not available for the purpose at the time of the trials on the Sigatoka.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. GORDON.

No. 25.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received January 3, 1877.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, November 9, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the translation of an amnesty published by me at Nasaucoko on the 26th ultimo, which may be regarded as the final close of the late disturbances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. GORDON.

Inclosure in No. 25.

I, the Governor, to the Natives and Inhabitants of Colo, Na Viti Levu.

(Translation.)

KNOW you that all disturbances and fighting are ended, and I have decreed that all things proper to a time of disturbance shall cease in Colo from this time. Peace to all is now to-day declared.

2. All the mountaineers that have been implicated in the disturbances just finished, those who are staying at the places appointed to them, and those who have fled and are scattered abroad in the bush or in caves, or may be living concealed in towns are pardoned, and they are from this day free to return to their friends or to such towns as it shall be decided for them to occupy at this time, and they shall not in any way be further molested. Every charge that may stand against them I now blot out, and they are entirely liberated therefrom.

3. I also order that the search for and apprehension of fugitives in the bush shall cease, and that these people shall no longer be called "bobula" (prisoners of war), or be taken as such. No man shall in future be questioned or tried criminally respecting the disturbances just finished whether he was engaged in them or not, whether chief or commoner, all alike, I blot out and bury all their error and evil doings, excepting in the case of the tribe of Mogodro, and the two Chiefs Tomuri and Naluve. This proclamation of peace does not apply to them, as they still remain disobedient and unsubmissive.

4. The troubles are over, and I desire their evils and the errors and evil doings of each individual shall be buried with their end, and no man shall be questioned criminally respecting the troubles now finished.

5. Know this all of you that I take pity upon you and desire peace and plenty for the mountains, and that you may live there again in peace and quietness.

6. As to the men who have been already tried and sentenced, it will remain with me whether the judgment against them shall be carried out or not. I shall

* No. 7. † No. 11.

observe them and think of them, and if their conduct be good they will be favourably regarded, and may be liberated sooner than their sentence provides.

7. This is my order, judgment, and word to you mountaineers at this time.

Hear and observe it that your welfare may be established.

I send my greeting to you.

Nasaucoko, October 26, 1876.

No. 26.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(*Received January* 3, 1877.)

My Lord, *"Nymphe," at sea, November* 18, 1876.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch of the 20th September,* requesting me to explain the cause of the apparent absence of communication between myself and the officer commanding the detachment of Royal Engineers now in Fiji on the subject of the measures to be adopted for the suppression of the recent disturbances in the Island of Viti Levu.

2. Your Lordship is quite right in supposing that I had distinct and definite reasons for refraining from addressing any official communication on the subject of these disturbances to Lieutenant-Colonel Pratt; and your Lordship has correctly divined that one of those reasons was that "it was preferable to deal with the matter as one of police jurisdiction rather than of war, and that, for reasons of policy, I intentionally abstained from allowing the operations to assume that military character which would have been inseparable from the employment of Her Majesty's troops."

I was most anxious to avoid exaggerating the importance of the disturbances, or taking any step which might tend to enlarge the area to which they were confined.

3. But although this was one of the reasons why I did not publicly seek the counsel of Lieutenant-Colonel Pratt, it was by no means the only one.

4. When, after the outbreaks of the 12th and 17th April, it became evident that force would be required to apprehend those who had planned and executed them, and to restore order in the mountains, it appeared to me that it was essential to act promptly, making use of the police and auxiliary force already engaged, but giving as little of a military character as possible to the operations.

The employment on this service of the Royal Engineers now here did not seem to me advisable. They were too few in number to be employed alone, and it would not have been easy in any satisfactory manner to have employed them along with natives. The work contemplated was of a nature for which European soldiers are ill-fitted, and the country of a nature to render the operation of a regular force difficult. The obstacles in the way of providing them with supplies of food and the means of transport for their baggage would have been enormous, and would have entailed great delay and extravagant expense.

Moreover, the introduction of a regular force would have given to the operations a different and an objectionable character. It would have at once converted into a war between whites and natives what, properly considered, was only the repression by the peaceably disposed and orderly portion of the native community of illegal outrages committed by another section of the native population.

Your Lordship may, perhaps, have observed that in my despatches, messages to the Council, and other writings during and since the period of disturbance, I have invariably been careful to avoid the use of the word "war," or of any other terms implying a state of warfare, and that a similar reticence has been displayed by the Commissioner, Assistant Commissioners, aad other subordinate agents employed. In fact, though the late operations have been conducted on a greater scale, they have not in form differed from those of any ordinary expedition of a party of police for the apprehension of an escaped convict or dangerous felon. Nor should it be overlooked that the employment of the Engineers would have taken them away from the labours on which they are engaged, and suspended the public works which can only proceed under their supervision. But whilst I thought that the operations undertaken ought not to bear too military a character, and that the

* No. 8.

Royal Engineers ought to take no part in them, I should nevertheless have been very glad to avail myself of Colonel Pratt's advice as to the measures to be adopted, and of his assistance in their prosecution. I therefore took steps to ascertain privately what were his views as to the course which should be pursued.

5. I found Lieutenant-Colonel Pratt to be of opinion:—

(1.) That the Royal Engineers now here ought not to be employed on active service in the mountains.

(2.) That no native Fijian force ought to be so employed.

(3.) That perfect quiescence should be observed until the arrival of reinforcements, for which he proposed to apply, and which he wished to consist either of five hundred sepoys from India, or a West India regiment.

6. In the first of these conclusions Lieutenant-Colonel Pratt was, I think, right. It did not appear to me expedient either that the company of Engineers stationed in Fiji should be employed alone in the contemplated service, or called upon to act in conjunction with Fijians.

7. Thus far, then, Lieutenant-Colonel Pratt and I were in accord; but I entirely dissented from his views with regard to delay, the non-employment of a native force, and the expediency of inviting the assistance of Indian or negro troops.

8. To have waited inactively pending the arrival of reinforcements would have involved many evils. If the injunction to observe a quiescent attitude had been strictly obeyed by the loyal tribes, it would have led to the unopposed destruction by the cannibals of many more Christian villages, and the murder of many more Christian people. If, as is more probable, the order has been disregarded, and expeditions, such as that under Ratu Luki, reported in my despatch of the 6th May last,* had been undertaken without official sanction, such expeditions would have been attended with the double inconvenience, that they would have been commenced in defiance of Government instructions, and consequently in a more or less insubordinate manner, and that being destitute of white control or encouragement, and wanting in combination, they would have been likely to meet with disaster. In any case, delay must necessarily have led to a great extension of the area of disturbance, and given rise to a feeling among the Christian people thus placed at the mercy of the mountaineers, that their interests and protection were neglected and themselves distrusted. Many, when they perceived that no succour was afforded them by the Government, would have joined the disaffected tribes in order to secure a momentary exemption from attack.

9. The non-employment of Fijians would have been in many respects undesirable. It would have led the natives, not unjustly, to consider themselves suspected, and would have done much to frighten all the more uncertain tribes into open hostility. Moreover, it must be borne in mind, that from the very beginning of the troubles large numbers of Fijians spontaneously took arms on the side of the Government, and that even previously to their commencement the armed constabulary had been employed in the district. The news of the good service done at Tatuba by the police garrison of Nasaucoko reached us with that of the very first outbreak, as did also the intelligence of Ratu Luki of Nadroga's retaliatory raid on the Ruwailevu. It would have been in the highest degree impolitic and unjust to have refused the aid of forces thus actually engaged. Moreover, the knowledge of the ground and of the people possessed by them was invaluable.

10. The employment of a foreign coloured force would, in my opinion, have been attended with nearly all the objections attending the employment of the Engineers, together with some from which the employment of the latter would have been free. The transport and pay of such a force would have been very costly, and although the difficulty of supplying provisions to them might, owing to their smaller consumption of animal food, have been somewhat less than that of supplying Englishmen, it would still have been very great. It would have been as difficult to employ Indians or negroes conjointly with a native force as it would have been to combine European troops and native levies; and the distrust of the natives shown by their employment would have been such as to give rise to no small amount of hidden discontent, if not open disaffection.

11. I thought, therefore, that I had better avoid asking officially for advice, which, if given, I should have felt myself unable to adopt. So long as the operations contemplated were a mere matter of police, in which regular troops were not engaged, there was no technical necessity for my calling in the aid of the com-

* No. 50 of [C. 1624] of August 1876.

manding officer. I had not the smallest doubt or hesitation as to the policy it was expedient to pursue; and it was less embarrassing to adopt the absence of advice from the officer commanding the troops than to do so in direct opposition to such advice formally given. Moreover, I thought it advisable on every account to avoid placing upon record any formal expression of a difference of opinion between us, and to shun the commencement of a discussion which could have been attended with no possible advantage to the public service.

12. I did not share the views held by Colonel Pratt, but I am bound to say that I do not think it was unnatural they should have been entertained by him, and that, placed in the position which he occupied, it would have been difficult for him to tender advice of any other nature. Any operation undertaken by him must have been strictly a military one, and would have been subjected to severe military criticism. It was only to be expected that to conduct it he should require a military force to handle, and that he should desire to avoid either employing his small body of Engineers on such a service, on being made responsible for the command and control of raw native levies, ignorant and impatient of discipline, unable to perform any military manœuvre, and conducting their operations without any regard to technical military rules. I must therefore beg that it may be distinctly understood that my dissent from Lieutenant-Colonel Pratt's views is not to be supposed to convey the smallest reflection on my part upon the soundness of his judgment, which in all probability was, from a purely military point of view, an entirely accurate one; and it was natural and right that the military and not the political situation should be that chiefly regarded by him.

13. But if it be conceded, as I think it will be, that I was right in considering immediate action necessary, and the employment of the native police and supplementary force of special constables desirable, it may yet be asked whether, although I might have overruled his opinions on those points, I could not still have obtained the personal assistance of Lieutenant-Colonel Pratt in the conduct of these operations? I think it improbable, for his determination not to stir a step without external aid had been too emphatically expressed to make it likely that he would be willing to undertake the task under different conditions. I did not, however, seek to ascertain this, for although, had any white or other regular troops been employed, it would have been desirable and necessary that Lieutenant-Colonel Pratt should have taken command of them, the same necessity did not appear to exist in the case of the native force raised from the different provinces of the Colony, and I believed myself free to take whatever steps seemed most likely to expedite the complete restoration of order. It would have been impossible, in the course of a few hours, and these hours most valuable ones, to give Lieutenant-Colonel Pratt an accurate knowledge of the state of affairs in the highlands of Viti Levu. To obtain a correct idea of the complicated negotiations which had for some months been carried on, it would have been necessary carefully to study a great mass of correspondence between myself and the different Government officers employed in Viti Levu; and, indeed, personal interviews with some of those Agents, as well as a certain amount of knowledge of the district and its previous history, were essential to a true comprehension of its actual condition.

I feel compelled also to remark that the qualifications required for the command of semi-civilized irregular native forces are very peculiar. Much as I respect Lieutenant-Colonel Pratt's abilities and character, and exceedingly efficient, as he undoubtedly is, in the discharge of the duties of his profession, I must avow my conviction that for the particular species of command referred to he is eminently unfit. I should see the direction of any regular force intrusted to him with entire confidence; and it is no disparagement to him to say that he has not had the smallest experience of savage and semi-civilized races, and neither understands their character nor the mode of handling them. Without such experience, an officer of regular troops cannot hope successfully to command native levies. Even with such experience, officers of the regular army are, I think, often likely to fail, if not possessing very unusual aptitude for throwing themselves out of their ordinary routine and habits. Native peculiarities are overlooked and prejudices disregarded, and a discipline is exacted which, though, perhaps, really light, probably touches in some points trivial matters of constant recurrence, and thereby excites disgust. The result is, that the native force becomes unmanageable, breaks into fragments, and disappears. As it was, it proved by no means easy to keep together the force employed on the Sigatoba. Had it been under Colonel Pratt's command, it would have melted away like snow before his operations were well begun.

14. Of course, if my only desire had been to avoid responsibility, I should have adopted the simple expedient of placing the direction of affairs in the hands of the officer commanding the troops. Had I been indifferent as to the amount that might be expended, to the extension of the area of disaffection, and to the time to be consumed in the suppression of the disturbance, I might have done so. But it being agreed that the Royal Engineers were not to be employed, and determined in my own mind that delay in the commencement of the operations was not to be thought of, it only remained to be considered in what manner a native force might be most easily raised and most efficiently handled. At such a moment, I apprehend that any Governor would disregard conventional proprieties, and select the fittest instruments he can find for his purpose, without much regard to aught else than their relative fitness. He does so, of course, at his own peril. If he fails, he no doubt incurs a heavy responsibility. Even if he succeeds, he may hardly escape censure; but personal consideration of such a nature would not probably be permitted to influence his action.

15. The case then may be briefly stated thus :—

I considered that the employment of the Royal Engineers would be injudicious; that it would greatly increase the cost and hazard of the operations, and prolong the time occupied by them. In this conclusion, though probably not altogether for the same reasons, Lieutenant-Colonel Pratt concurred.

I thought it better to abstain from formally requesting advice as to the operations to be undertaken, which I knew I should be unable to accept, and to avoid the commencement of any official correspondence which could lead to no result.

No regular troops being employed, I believed myself free to avoid the risks which I thought involved in committing the command of operations of such a nature as those about to be undertaken to a military officer who had no special qualifications for so peculiar a task.

For these reasons, I abstained from making any official communication to the officer commanding the detachment of Royal Engineers in Fiji, on the subject of the measures to be adopted for the suppression of the recent disturbances in Viti Levu.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. GORDON.

P.S.—I perceive that I have not replied to your Lordship's inquiry as to my "reasons for feeling satisfied that the action taken by you was not liable to such failures and reverses as are too frequently incidental to warfare of this nature."

I considered that the Kai Colos, badly armed and incapable of combined action, would be totally unable to resist the advance of forces armed with Snider rifles, led by Europeans, and acting in strict combination. In fact, they had already shown themselves unable to cope with the Nadroga force led against them by Ratu Luki, although that force had possessed none of these advantages.

Of course success was not absolutely certain; but I felt that the moral certainty was quite sufficient to act upon, and that, at all events, the risks of disaster would be greatly increased by the employment of a handful of European regular troops, or an attempt to force a body of native volunteers to act in accordance with the strict rules of scientific warfare.

I see also, on reading over my despatch, that I have perhaps hardly sufficiently shown my appreciation of the high qualties possessed by Lieutenant-Colonel Pratt. I wish, therefore, explicitly to state that it is, I think, impossible to form too favourable an opinion of that officer as a surveyor and engineer; that his views appear to me to have been, from a professional point of view, sound; and that had he possessed my intimate knowledge of the circumstances of the case, and occupied my position, I cannot but think that he would probably have formed a similar opinion to my own as to their political aspect, and would have acted in the same manner as myself.

A. G.

No. 27.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, January* 10, 1877.

I HAVE received, with satisfaction, the Report upon the present condition of Colo, contained in your despatch of the 27th of October.*

I have also had before me the translation of the amnesty which you published at Nasaucoko on the 26th of October, on the termination of the late disturbances, inclosed in your despateh of the 9th of November.†

I approve of the terms of this amnesty, and congratulate you on the success which has attended the efforts to put down this rising, the result of which, it may be hoped, will be to introduce a better and more peaceful state of affairs.‡

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 28.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received January 31, 1877.)

My Lord, *Nasova, Fiji, December* 18, 1876.

IN compliance with the provisions of Article 407 of the Colonial Regulations, I have the honour to report the execution at Nasaucoko, on the 24th October, of the capital sentences pronounced in the Commissioners Court under Ordinance No. 16 of 1875, on the individuals named in the inclosed schedule, and confirmed by myself.

2. Of these, the first was the perpetrator of the cold-blooded murder of a woman about a year and a-half ago. A warrant was at the time issued for his apprehension, but he could not be apprehended, as reported in the inclosure to my despatch of the 10th September, 1875.‡ I then declared that, though he might hide for a time, justice would ultimately overtake him; and I am glad that this has proved to be the case.

3. The remainder were guilty of murders during the late disturbances, their victims having all been killed, not in fighting, but in cold blood.

One was the murderer of the woman and child killed at Nawaqa, who were the first persons put to death by the mountaineers on their outbreak.

Another killed an old man who was living with him as a friend, simply to provide a body for a feast for which a wish had been expressed.

4. These executions took place before the publication of the late amnesty, forwarded in my despatch of the 9th ultimo.† Strictly speaking, it would not have extended to these offences, but I intend to give it the most liberal construction, and not to allow any further inquiry into any offence whatever committed in Colo before its date.

5. I also inclose a list of ten other persons capitally convicted in the Commissioners Court between the 6th September and 24th October, all of whose sentences I have commuted, or altogether remitted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. GORDON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 28.

Names of Murderers executed at Nasaucoko on the 24th of October, 1876.

1. Rokotako.
2. Tui Viwa.
3. Matabewa.
4. Netau.

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* No. 23. † No. 25. ‡ No. 5 of [C.—1624] August 1876.

Inclosure 2 in No. 28.

Name.	Offence.	Sentence.
1. Navula	Murders at Vatubau in June 1875	Commuted to five years' hard labour.
2. Magada	Ditto	Ditto.
3. Wagali	Murdered his wife at Nasolo through jealousy.	Pardoned.
4. Tui Vono ..	Instigating murder	Commuted to ten years' hard labour.
5. Natodra	Ditto	Ditto.
6. Tabuviti	Ditto	Ditto.
7. Maditoga ..	Murder at Tatuba	Ditto.
8. Virikula	Murder of Korsiduvula	Pardoned on account of youth, and having acted under orders.
9. Doidoi	Murder of Ruvatinino	Ditto.
10. Tiloko	Inciting murder	Commuted to ten years' hard labour.

No. 29.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, February* 6, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 18th December last,* reporting the execution of four murderers on the 24th October, at Nasaucoko, in Colo, and forwarding a list of their names; with a list of ten other persons whose capital sentences you had commuted, or altogether remitted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 30.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, February* 10, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you a copy of a letter which has been received from the War Office, stating that in consideration of the recent services of Lieutenant Knollys, 32nd Foot, that officer will be specially promoted to a half-pay company, and will he brought back to full-pay at an early date.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 31.

Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G., to the Earl of Carnarvon.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 31.)

My Lord, *Nasova, February* 15, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a Memorandum on the late disturbances in the Island of Viti Levu.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR H. GORDON.

Inclosure in No. 31.

Memorandum.

IN the month of January 1875, the then Administrator of the Government, Mr. Layard, met at Navuso, on the Rewa River, a large number of representatives from the tribes of the interior of Viti Levu.

2. At this meeting, which was attended by between 900 and 1,000 persons, the mountaineers agreed to renounce heathenism and abandon cannibalism, to live

* No. 28.

peaceably among themselves, and to acknowledge thenceforward the supremacy of the Government.

3. Most unfortunately this meeting exactly coincided in point of time with the unhappy introduction of measles into the group, which caused the death, in a few months, of at least 40,000 persons.

4. Some of those who had come from Levuka to attend the meeting had already been attacked by the disease. The infection spread from them to others, and on the breaking up of the meeting it was diffused simultaneously through almost every part of the highlands.

5. The Kai Colo Chiefs and their attendants carried the seeds of the disease with them to their homes and communicated it to their tribes, among whom it spread rapidly and with fatal effect.

Of the Chiefs who had attended the meetings nearly all died very shortly after their return to the mountains. It is not surprising that they should have believed themselves to have been intentionally poisoned or bewitched by the new rulers of the country, and it is natural that this belief should have been largely shared by their people.

6. The results were such as might have been anticipated. A great part of the but half-converted mountain tribes threw off the religion they had newly professed and returned to the practices they had just abjured. Those who did not proceed to such lengths remained in a manner neutral, sending away the Christian teachers who had gone among them, but not resuming heathen practices.

7. The alarm and irritation felt by the tribes on the eastern side of the great dividing range which traverses Viti Levu from north to south soon subsided. The teachers gradually resumed their places, the authority of the Government became more and more recognized, and its influence steadily increased in strength throughout the whole of the extensive district traversed by the head waters of the Rewa River and those of its large and numerous tributary streams.

8. The western division of the island, however, presented a very different aspect.

9. The wavering loyalty of Nadrau and the villages at the head of the Sigatoka River was probably assured by the well-timed visit of Mr. Carew and Mr. Gordon, in July 1875; but from below Nadrau to the mouth of that river (a distance of some eighty or ninety miles), as well as in the upper portion of the basin of the Ba River, the tribes remained suspicious of all interference and ready for any mischief.

10. In January 1876, I met Representatives of these tribes at Navola, on the south coast of Viti Levu. I told them that if they abstained from murder and cannibalism, and discontinued the practice of making forays on their neighbours, they would be unmolested in the enjoyment of their lands, the practices of their religion, and the observance of their ordinary habits and customs.

11. With the concurrence of this meeting, I immediately after its conclusion sent my Commissioner, Mr. Carew, and a body of police, to take up a position in an inland district, the villages of which were either nominally Christian, though without teachers, or heathen, but not unfriendly to the Government. Mr. Carew advanced about thirty-five miles from the coast. He there found that if he attempted to push further inland he would probably be opposed. As he desired above all things to avoid an open collision with the natives, and had already reached the district in which it was intended to take up a position, he desisted from the attempt to penetrate more deeply into the interior, and fixed on the village of Nasancoko, on the Wai Tabucake River, a tributary of the Sigatoka, as the site for a camp.

12. The establishment of this camp has proved of the most essential service. My object in its foundation was that it should exercise a moral influence, to which, rather than to physical force, I trusted to secure a recognition of the authority of the Government in the district, and the gradual conversion of a nominal into a real control.

13. As a support to the remaining Christian villages, and as an excuse to the friendly heathens for not joining their brethren in practices or acts which we disapproved, this camp was no doubt invaluable, but it was to the more indirect effects of its presence in the mountains that I attached the greatest value. The influence of its existence was felt where it was not acknowledged, and far beyond the points which could be reached from it. I knew that if open hostilities could be avoided it would become a focus of trade for the whole of the interior of Viti Levu

west of the dividing range, and a centre from which friendly relations would be easily established with the more suspicious and distrustful tribes through the medium of those who were already well-disposed and had become aware that no evil was intended either to themselves or others by the Government.

14. It was unfortunately impossible, however, not to perceive that the task which had been undertaken in attempting to bring this district peacefully under the authority of the Crown was one of peculiar difficulty.

15. A large proportion of the natives inhabiting this part of Viti Levu had not even nominally embraced Christianity or been represented at Navuso. They had never submitted to any coast Chief. They but very imperfectly realized the claims or power of the Government, and they felt not unnatural confidence in the strength of their vast rock fortresses. They were also more or less aware that claims had been put forward to the possession of their lands, which they were prepared at any cost to resist.

16. Unfortunately, too, their neighbours to the south, the people of Nadroga, always jealous of the river tribes, and filled with all the zeal of new Christianity, constantly taunted the heathens of the mountains with their inability to fight for their faith, and told them that if they did not voluntarily adopt Christianity they would be shortly made to so by force.

17. Nor was the conduct of the white settlers always judicious, and it is to be feared that reason was given the natives to suppose that the Government was prepared to enforce the most extravagant and unfounded claims of the whites; to compel the native population to abandon their numerous towns and highly-cultivated gardens for limited reserves of land; to insist on the abandonment of polygamy, the adoption of Christianity, and the introduction of the whole body of English law, administered by English magistrates—all measures most distasteful to the natives and at variance with the assurances I had given at Navola.

18. Still, when I saw how rapidly alarm and irritation was giving way to confidence and security in other parts of Fiji, I could not but hope that measures of a similar character to those which had been adopted with success elsewhere might ultimately produce the same result in the valley of the Sigatoka.

19. In fact, all the influences of which I have spoken, and others on which I do not greatly care to touch, might have failed to produce any sinister effect, but for the determined hostility to the Government of the Chiefs Mudu, of Qalemari, and Na Bisiki, of Drio-drio. These two men, both possessing activity and ability, which gave them an influence far greater than that to which their mere position as Chiefs would have entitled them, worked eagerly and incessantly against the Government.

20. Others, however, laboured as strenuously on its side, and as time passed, individuals and villages became less and less inclined to hold aloof, and were taught to see that their interest and security lay in a junction with the Government. I felt convinced that if only hostilities could be postponed for a few months they would never take place at all. I am still of opinion that this would have been the result of only a few weeks more quiet; but Bisiki and Mudu were also as well aware as myself of the danger to their cause involved in delay, and feeling that they were losing ground, they resolved at all hazards to ensure the commencement of hostilities.

21. On the 12th April the village of Nawaga, within a short distance of Nasaucoko, was burned, and during the next few days the frontier towns of the province of Nadi were destroyed or threatened by bands under the direction of Bisiki and Mudu; whilst, by an evidently preconcerted arrangement, the Christian villages on the lower part of the Sigatoka were at the same time burnt, and a number of women and children killed, by the united forces of the tribes in that vicinity.

22. The young Roko Tui of Nadroga, Ratu Luki, immediately collected a small force, and, crossing the Sigatoka, made a retaliatory raid on the heathen villages to the east of that river, burning them, and forcing their inhabitants to fly to the strong towns further in the interior.

23. It now became evident that a collision was unavoidable. It was impossible to permit the perpetrators of such outrages to remain unpunished, and it was clear that it would be equally impossible to secure them without encountering resistance.

24. On receipt, therefore, of intelligence of the outbreak, which did not reach me at Levuka till the 22nd April, I immediately dispatched reinforcements to the

garrison at Nasaucoko, and sent two or three gentlemen in whom I had confidence to assist in raising forces in the provinces of Nadroga and Serua. About a week afterwards, I myself proceeded to Nasaucoko, Nadi, and Nadroga, to concert with those on the spot the plan of operations to be adopted.

25. The whole area of the disturbed district may be roughly said to have consisted of the basin of the Sigatoka and its tributaries, comprising about 1,000 square miles.

26. Without the aid of any reliable maps to explain the position of the various tribes inhabiting this district, I can only attempt to describe their relative situation by following the course of the river which runs through a part of the territories occupied by them all.

27. In the north of Viti Levu, where the main source of the river takes its rise, the country is cut up into innumerable ravines of great depth, over the sides of which considerable patches of forest are here and there scattered, but which are more generally covered with grass where the precipitous cliffs permit the growth of any vegetation at all. This district is inhabited by the Cawanisa tribe, a small portion of which remained stanch in their adherence to the Government, but the disaffected portion of which contained the wildest savages and most determined cannibals in Fiji.

28. Further to the south, where the river becomes wider and the ravines more open, though still of great depth and very precipitous, lies the town and district of Nadrau, the great support of the Government authority in the north.

29. About four miles lower down the river, raised high on the right bank, was situated the notorious town of Nabutautau, which, together with the towns of Na Veizaraki and Tarriacolo, situated below it, on the edge of the river itself, was inhabited by the Vatu Sila tribe, and where had assembled a motley crew of refugees from all quarters, comprising all that was vilest in Fiji. Escaped prisoners, or men charged with offences who had fled from warrants issued for their apprehension; men who had quarrelled with their own tribes; men who had been punished by their Chiefs, or cast out of their own villages for the commission of some crime, all found a welcome from the lawless community assembled in a locality so strong and inaccessible that it was supposed that from thence the Government might be defied with impunity.

30. The river next passes into the extensive district of Nuyakoro, comprising the mountains and valleys of Nagaga to the right of the river, and to the left or east the plains and hills which form the basin of the numerous rivers and smaller streams which fall into the Sigatoka from that quarter. The Nuyakoro tribes allowed themselves to be carried into opposition to the Government, but did not show much heartiness in the cause they had adopted, those on the east of the river not taking part in any hostile operation, and, with the exception of one village, soon making their submission.

31. Before reaching this point a great change is perceptible in the aspect of the country, wide, open plains and low grass-covered hills, with occasional clumps of wood, taking the place of precipitous ravines, forest, and rocks. At Wala, a large Christian village, the river takes an abrupt turn to the west, and between this point and its junction with the Wai Tabu Cake, other small Christian villages are to be found.

32. On the Wai Tabu Cake River, and at about fifteen miles from the point of its junction with the Sigatoka, if the course of the stream be followed, but not above half that distance in a straight line, is Nasancoko. For some distance below the Wai Tabu Cake the country is chiefly under the influence of Beimana, which, though heathen, remained steadily attached to the cause of the Government.

33. After passing Beimana, the line of demarcation between the hostile and friendly tribes can more easily be defined, the former occupying almost exclusively the left or east bank of the river, while on the right or west bank the only disaffected town being that of Nokanoka, held by a portion of the Conna tribe.

34. The district of the Qalemari adjoining Beimana, thickly studded with towns and villages, both in the plains and on the mountains, and possessing several imposing strongholds on the range of hills which here follow the course of the river for about six miles, ending at the southernmost point in the rock fortress of Matanavata, was inhabited by a dense population, who were at the same time careful agriculturists and the most turbulent warriors on the river.

35. Next in order to the Qalemari come the Qale Mavua tribes, occupying three or four towns on the river, and (in conjunction with a portion of the Conna tribe),

the two great strongholds of Bukutia and Koroivatuma lying some four miles inland from the Sigatoka.

36. For the last ten or fifteen miles of its course the Sigatoka flows through a country which is again very different from that which it has previously traversed, and of which alluvial flats and low isolated hills are the most distinguishing features. The main body of the hostile Conna tribe had held many small towns, some near to the river, some at a considerable distance from it, scattered over a large extent of country to within a few miles of the coast, and close to the villages of the Batizi Christians, who had occupied the plains upon the same side for some miles from the mouth of the Sigatoka.

37. The right bank of the river for a considerable distance from the sea was thickly studded with Christian villages.

38. At the beginning of May the actual position of parties in this extensive region was as follows :—

(1.) The garrison of Nasancoko consisted of 250 men, chiefly armed constabulary.

(2.) At Navalili, about ten miles from the mouth of the Sigatoka, a camp had been formed, where Ratu Luki, Koko Tui of Nadroga's force was stationed. This force, already large, was daily receiving accessions from Serua, Namosi, &c., and by the end of the month amounted to about 1,000 men.

(3.) At Nadrau the loyal tribes, strong and numerous, but hemmed in between the Cawanisa on the north, and the Vatu Sila on the south, were awaiting a collision with their neighbours, and anxiously looking for the arrival of succour from the Government.

(4.) The Na Nuyakoro were in arms against the Government, but had taken no overt action except by participating in the siege of Wala.

(5.) The Qalemari were along with the Conua refugees, chiefly massed in Bukutia and Koroivatuma, whence they made occasional raids in the vicinity.

(6.) The left bank of the Sigatoka for some distance inland was quite deserted, the Christian villages having been burnt by the cannibals, whose own towns, more remote from the bank, had been destroyed by Ratu Luki's force. The inhabitants had taken refuge respectively in the Christian towns on the right bank of the river and in the rebel strongholds of Bukutia and Koroivatuma.

39. The objects I proposed to myself were three—

(1.) To afford such efficient aid in Nadrau, Beimana, and other loyal towns as should enable them to resist with success the threats or persuasions of their disaffected neighbours.

(2.) To secure the capture and trial of those concerned in the outrages which had been committed; and

(3.) To effect the subjugation of those villages and tribes which refused to obey the Government summons to surrender the criminals harboured by them.

40. I did not think it would be expedient to employ the Royal Engineers now stationed in the Colony for this service. They were too few in number to be employed alone, and it would not have been easy in any satisfactory manner to have employed them along with natives

The work contemplated was of a nature for which European soldiers are ill-fitted, and the country of such a character as to render the operations of a regular force difficult. The obstacles in the way of providing European troops with supplies of food and the means of transport for their baggage would have been enormous, and would have entailed great delay and extravagant expense. Moreover, the introduction of a regular force would have given to the operations a character which I was especially anxious that they should not assume. It would have at once converted into a war between whites and natives what, if properly considered, was only the repression by the peaceably-disposed and orderly portion of the native community of illegal outrages committed by another section of the native population.

41. I accordingly determined to proceed with the aid of native forces alone, and after calling out a *levée en masse* of the districts most nearly interested, I directed such of the Rokos of the other provinces to enrol thirty volunteers for the service.

In every part of the Colony the call was responded to with enthusiasm, and from some provinces twice or thrice the number asked for presented themselves. Some delay was however caused by the difficulty of obtaining transport for the forces thus raised from various parts of the group. This force, which if all those

employed at different times and different places, amounted to about 2,000, was not armed without difficulty. The Colonial Government had about fifty Snider rifles in its possession. I purchased 100 more from the Government of New Zealand, and a few from other quarters, but the great majority of the forces raised were armed with old Tower, American, and Russian muskets.

42. It was resolved that, so soon as an auxiliary force could be collected to replace the garrison at Nasancoko, Captain Knollys, with the force from thence, should march to Nadi, proceed by sea to the Ba River, and thence by land, accompanied by provincial levies to Nadrau. After effecting a junction with the forces raised there he was to descend the Sigatoka as far as Beimana.

At the same time Mr. Gordon, with the force from Navalili, was to proceed up the river to the same point. The force at Nasancoko, under Mr. Le Hunte, was directed to prevent the escape of fugitives to the west, and generally to assist either advancing force if opportunity offered. A similar service was assigned to the Chief Roqeregeretabua, and the friendly tribes of the Wai ni Mala, who were entrusted with the duty of preventing the flight of the disaffected to the east, and of occupying the Nuyakoro country on the left bank of the Sigatoka.

43. Of the events which followed detailed reports have been already furnished, nor will it be necessary for me in this place to do more than very briefly indicate their tenor. With the exception that Mr. Gordon's advance against the tribes of of the Lower Sigatoka was somewhat hastened, and Captain Knolly's departure from Nasancoko somewhat delayed, the plan agreed upon was adhered to and attended with complete success.

44. In the latter part of June the tribes below Beimana were thoroughly subjugated by Mr. Gordon. In the early part of July, Roqeregeretabua, the Chief of the Wai ni Mala tribes, occupied the Nuyakoro town to the east of the Sigatoko without encountering any resistance, and succeeded in inducing them to submit themselves to the Government.

During the same month Captain Knollys successively captured the different caves in which the disaffected tribes of the upper part of the river had sought refuge. At the beginning of August he marched down the river to Vatula, and on the 10th of that month he re-entered Nasancoko, which he had left early in June.

All opposition to the Government was now over, and order having been restored throughout the whole of the disturbed district, the forces engaged were, with the exception of the ordinary strength of the armed constabulary, disbanded as rapidly as possible.

45. When the plan of operations had been arranged and its execution commenced, it became necessary for me to consider in what manner the subjugated tribes should be treated when reduced to obedience.

46. Under the former Government of Fiji it had been usual in such cases to burn all towns, to make prisoners of and remove the whole of the people, and to sell their services as labourers to the planters for a longer or shorter period, leaving the land empty and presumably open for settlement. The punishment was indiscriminate and, in my view, unjust. Its effect was to desolate a province and inflict severe punishment on a multitude of comparatively innocent people, whilst no special chastisement overtook those specially guilty, a long period of banishment and servitude being equally assigned to the most hardened murderer and the most helpless child.

47. It appeared to me that it would be both more humane and more politic to adopt a different course; and I accordingly determined that the disaffected tribes should not be removed from their homes *en masse*, but that only those who had taken a prominent part in resistance to the Government force should be sentenced to imprisonment for a longer or shorter period; that a few of the most dangerous characters should be permanently deported from Viti Levu to the other islands, and that the worst of those who had committed actual murder should be left to undergo the penalty of death which they had incurred.

48. It was open to me to follow the plan of the former Government, and direct the wholesale deportation of the tribes without taking life, or to show such severity in a few instances as would allow me to permit the population generally to remain in their own towns and districts. The latter course appeared to me the more truly lenient and considerate towards a subjugated people, as well as more consonant with the requirements of justice. It could not, however, prudently be adopted unless the future good behaviour of the tribe was to be relied on, and this could

only be secured by the infliction of exemplary punishment on the most guilty of their number. Practically I had no choice but the adoption of one or other of these lines of action, for I may dismiss without hesitation the short-sighted counsel that neither should individuals be punished nor any chastisement inflicted on the tribe generally, but that, when conquered, they should simply be requested not to offend again.

49. When, accordingly, after Mr. Gordon's successes on the lower Sigatoka, the Batiri murderers and rebel ringleaders fell into my hands, I felt no hesitation in directing their immediate trial under the provisions of Ordinance No. 16 of 1875, or in confirming, in the case of the most guilty, the sentences of death passed upon them by the Commissioner.

It is, I think, important to point out that the capital punishments thus inflicted were not, as they might at first sight appear to be, military executions. The accused were tried in the same manner as they would have been under ordinary circumstances, and by the same tribunal before which they would have been brought if no outbreak had taken place—the Ordinance having been passed many months before any disturbance was anticipated, and making provision for the ordinary trial of offences, including murder, in the districts exempted from the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.

50. The effect of these executions was most salutary. It had been previously imagined by the natives that life would, under no circumstances, be taken by the Government, and that the worst they had to fear for the commission of any atrocity was a few years' detention on another Island. The discovery of their mistake struck terror to the hearts of those who had fancied that they might indulge in murder at no greater cost to themselves than that of some temporary inconvenience.

51. It was unnecessary to repeat in its full severity the lesson thus taught, and accordingly, in the subsequent proceedings at Vatula, I felt myself able without impropriety to commute the capital sentences of men whose crimes, had their cases stood alone, would certainly have prevented me, under ordinary circumstances, from interposing to prevent their execution.

52. It was, however, impossible not to inflict capital punishment in some cases tried subsequently to the executions at Na Sigatoka.

53. It would not have been just that punishment should have fallen on the tribes of the lower part of the river alone, and had none of the murderers and ringleaders subsequently captured been executed, the punishments inflicted at Na Sigatoka would have been attributed, not to the deliberate action of the Government, but to the revenge of the Nadroga tribes, who had formed the bulk of the southern force. Of the numerous capital sentences, however, pronounced by the Commissioner and Assistant-Commissioner for Colo, comparatively very few were carried out, and those only in cases distinguished by some special atrocity or other aggravating circumstance.

54. I should, I need hardly say, have desired to escape the necessity of confirming any capital sentence, but it would have been mistaken lenity had I treated these men with indulgence, and would have led to a renewal of the outbreak at no distant day. In dealing with savage races it is a necessity to inflict severe punishment where such punishment has been threatened, and the threat has been disregarded.

55. A few of the more dangerous of the prisoners were selected for permanent removal to other Islands. About 120 others were sentenced to hard labour on the public works for periods varying from two to five years, and the remainder were at once permitted to return to their own districts.

56. The following arrangements were made by me for the reorganization of the territory which had been the scene of the disturbances.

57. The Cawanisa and Vatu Sila districts were placed under the care of the Buli Nadrau, who was appointed a Buli of the first class; and his brother Colaiuli, a native stipendiary magistrate.

58. The Qalemari district, as far as and including Matanavatu, was placed under Kolikoli, the Chief of Beimana, whose steady adherence to the Government merited a conspicuous reward.

59. The Qale Mavua was placed under the Rabalabala of Koroinasau, who was also created a magistrate.

60. Orders were given that those of the towns which had been burnt which were situated on hills or in positions difficult of access should not be rebuilt, but that the reconstruction of those on the low grounds should be at once commenced.

The people of Batiri were also told to rebuild their villages, as were those of the other Christian towns destroyed at the commencement of the disturbance.

61. It was determined to remove the force at Nasancoko to a point somewhat higher up on the Sigatoka River, whence access is easy to all the districts which will require any care or watching. At this point a new fort has been constructed, which I have called Fort Carnarvon, and the officer in command of which will act as my Commissioner. The garrison I propose, for the present, to maintain at from 100 to 150 men.

62. After I left Viti Levu, Mr. Le Hunte visited nearly all the towns which had sent in their submission, and many towns in the Nadi district previously unvisited. In every place he was received with the greatest cordiality and good-will, and found the new order of things fairly established.

63. The progress since made has been most satisfactory. The new towns are rapidly rising, and contain many handsome and well-built houses. All infractions of law and order are jealously watched by the Chiefs, and when offences are committed the offenders are at once transmitted to Fort Carnarvon for punishment. A striking instance of the change which has come over these districts has been afforded during the last few days. Of twenty prisoners who, a short time since, effected their escape from Suva, and made their way up to the mountains, eighteen have been already captured and delivered up to the Commandant at Fort Carnarvon by their own tribes, among whom they had looked for the shelter and protection to which, according to old Fijian customs, they were entitled.

64. I will not say that future disturbances in Vitu Levu are absolutely impossible, but if the rights of the natives be respected, and a conciliatory as well as firm policy adopted towards them, their occurrence is, I think, in a high degree improbable. All have now formally abandoned cannibalism and heathenism. Teachers are living among them, and it will be the duty of the Commissioner frequently to visit all parts of the district, and at once remove any cause for dissatisfaction, or repress any tendency to lawlessness as he may find it necessary.

65. I have not, in this Memorandum, made any reference to the question of finance.

Before concluding, however, I may observe that, owing to the large amount of duty in the field performed, and supplies furnished as feudal service, the total expenditure incurred for pay, provisions, stores, ammunition, transport, &c., including the purchase of 100 Snider rifles and accoutrements from the New Zealand Government, did not exceed 1,600*l.*

(Signed) ARTHUR H. GORDON.

No. 32.

The Earl of Carnarvon to Governor the Hon. Sir A. H. Gordon, K.C.M.G.

Sir, *Downing Street, April* 30, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 15th of February,* forwarding a Memorandum which you had drawn up on the late disturbances in Viti Levu.

I have caused a copy of this Memorandum to be forwarded to the Secretary of State for War, to whose Department copies of your previous despatches on the same subject have been transmitted.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CARNARVON.

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* No. 31.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE relative to the Colony of Fiji.

(In continuation of [C. 1624], August 1876.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty. July 1877.

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